

August-September 2014
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L I U I

PLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY ISSUE ! COSPLAY

ISSN: 2244-6524

PSICOM

13

LIFESTYLE: CRAFTING | CHEST BINDING | SEWING | WIG | LENSES
REVIEWS: TOKYO GHOUL | TOKYO ESP | KUROSHITSUJI | AND MORE~
GAMER'S ARENA: PHANTASY STAR ONLINE 2 | SPLATOON |
PLUS: WCS | TOYCON2014 COVERAGE | PH-JP FRIENDSHIP MONTH

HK...18.03 HKD IN...22,612.30 IDR JP...230.84 JPY MY...6.92 MYR SG...2.86 SGD TW...68.61 TWD TH...68.81 THB

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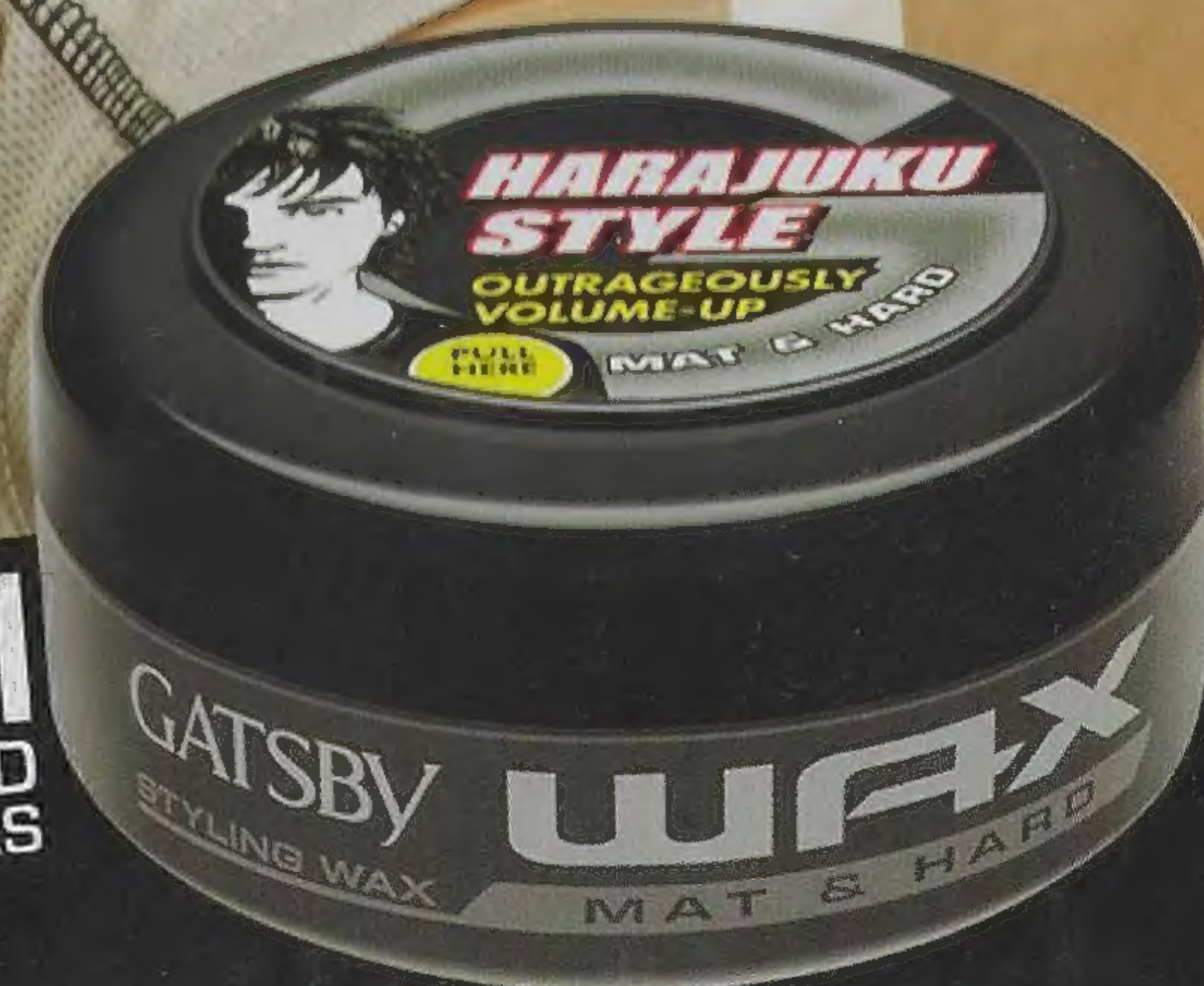


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Oooop. Did you see that? Did you see that? Mmm... Liui Aquino~

You have in your hands the super awesome mega issue! With a whooping 104 pages full of your cosplay needs: crafting katana, sewing, chest binding and contact lenses. We're also adding more pages for Bento Box, Hooked Book, Otakugoodies with thanks to a new partners, E2046 and Eye Candy Shop.

Growing up, you must have watched Sailor Moon. This year, it's back as an anime and we are here to talk about it. Go on, read our thoughts. Read it.

With all that, a new season of anime has started and we have covered Barakamon, Kuroshitsuji: Book of Circus, Tokyo Ghoul ans Tokyo ESP. Go on and read the awesome!

-GM O-kun
P.S. Check out page 62-64

CONTRIBUTOR'S QUESTION: IF YOU COULD COSPLAY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Priss S. Asagiri's hardsuit in Bubblegum Crisis 2040. Ever since I watched this series. I instantly fell in love with her strong personality in the Knight Sabers plus she's a vocalist of a rock band. One of her strong trademark is her hardsuit which is also my favorite color. It is cool and sexy. Most of all, it is one of the challenge costume because of the hardsuit.

-Pam Ola

Gintoki Sakata from Gintama.

It's because he is what I like as a main character: White-haired and a Samurai. Plus we share the same personality.

-Nathaniel Angeles

Rei Ayanami from Neon Genesis Evangelion. I fancy wearing her suit, and her hair color is really cool.

-Dhanliza Cellona

Ren Kouen from Magi.

I think I can pull off his character aura and overall feel, plus I like his character. I wouldn't mind carrying a huge magical sword too.

-John Robert Lim

I want to cosplay as No Face because...ah ah ~~

-Ann Flores



STYLE FREEZER

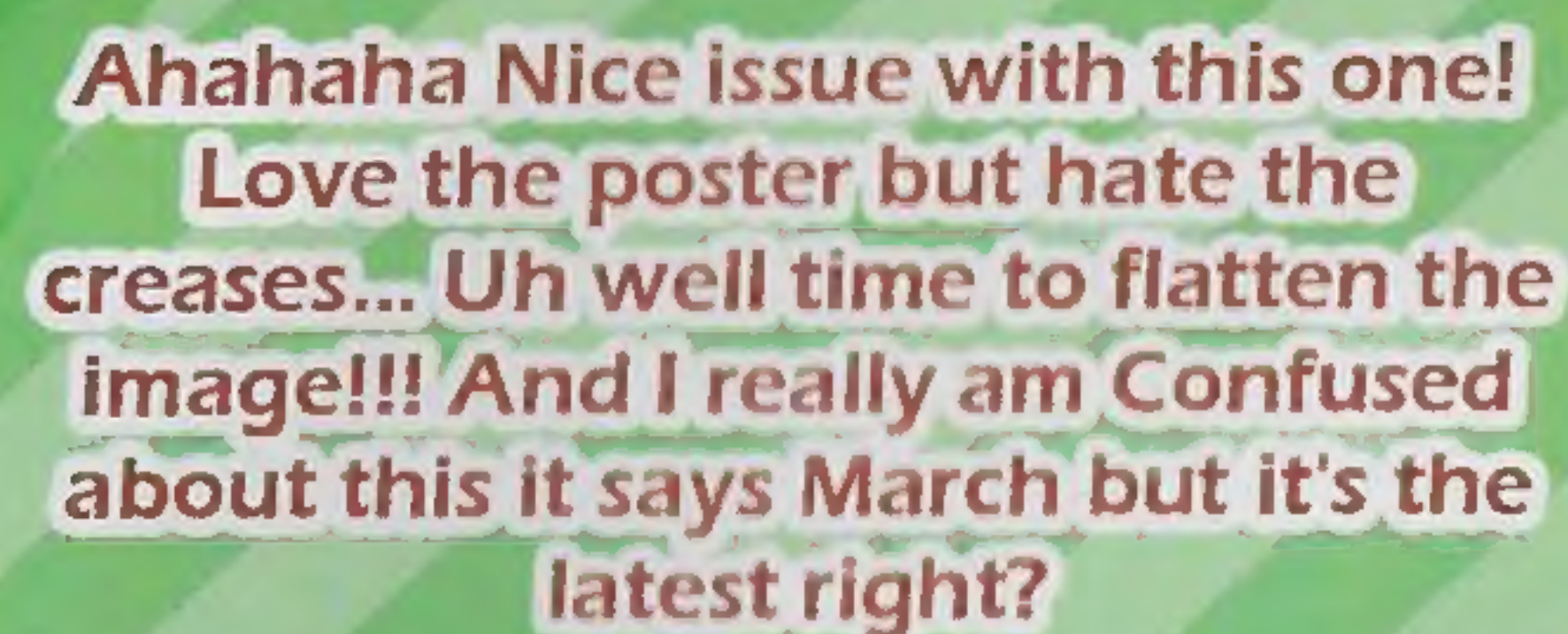
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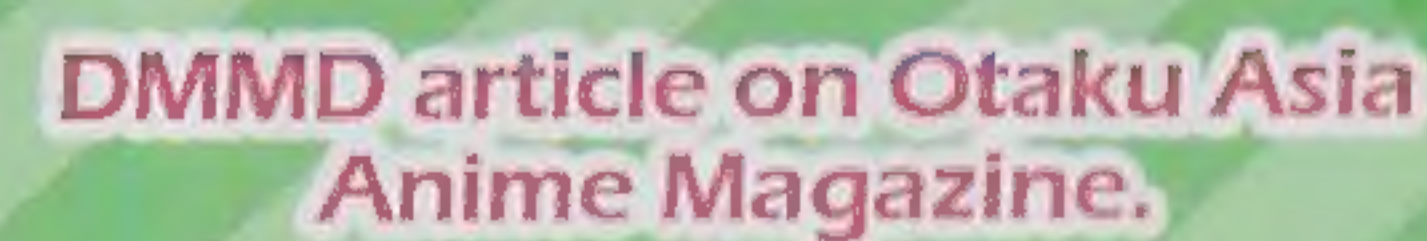
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-Lance Alonte



-Jake Fuller

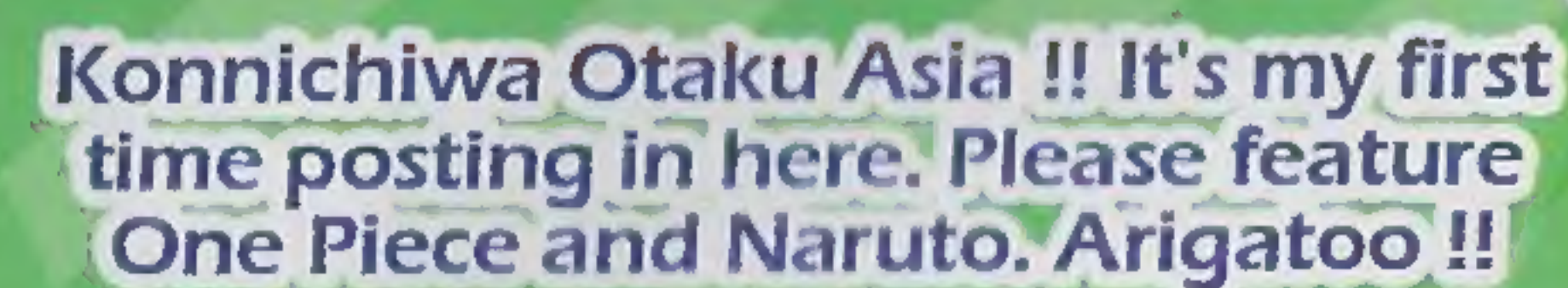


Yuki's (Isana Yashiro) reaction was like:

"AYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAY
AYAY PATING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!IN !!!"

P.S. LQ because Webcam Toy.

-Carlo de Ocampo



Soru Ri



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NEW!

P 59 ONLY

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FAIRVIEW TERRACES SM MANILA SM MALL OF ASIA SM NORTH EDSA SM MEGAMALL GLORIETTA ROBINSONS GALLERIA



Aris Chua



Sword Art Online II is fast approaching and gonna air this July 2014. So here's my fanart Yuuki Asuna for you guys (alfheim).

Greetings to all my SNO group friends, and to my Osu Mates whom i played with. Thank you OA, i hope u still post this on ur upcoming mag even though i'm not in the philippines anymore and may not see it..

-Von Neo Gozos (Kyo Kusanagi)



Hi po to all OA staffs!~ I'm so happy that another "otaku" magazine existed in our country. Anyway, Thank you so much for making this superb and amazing MAG ...

hmm ... sana po ma-feature niyo po ung HAIKYUU!!, World Trigger, Yowamushi Pedal, Kuroko no Basuke, Soul Catcher, Illegal Rare, Magi, Mangaka-san to Assistant-san and many more ...

I also want to greet my precious friends Dai, Joy, Trisha, Eugene, Mike, Rochelle and to all BSIE-Comed-2C and O.N.U (Otaku no Ure~ <3)

-GAMBATTE!~

-maiberu tobio tetsuya

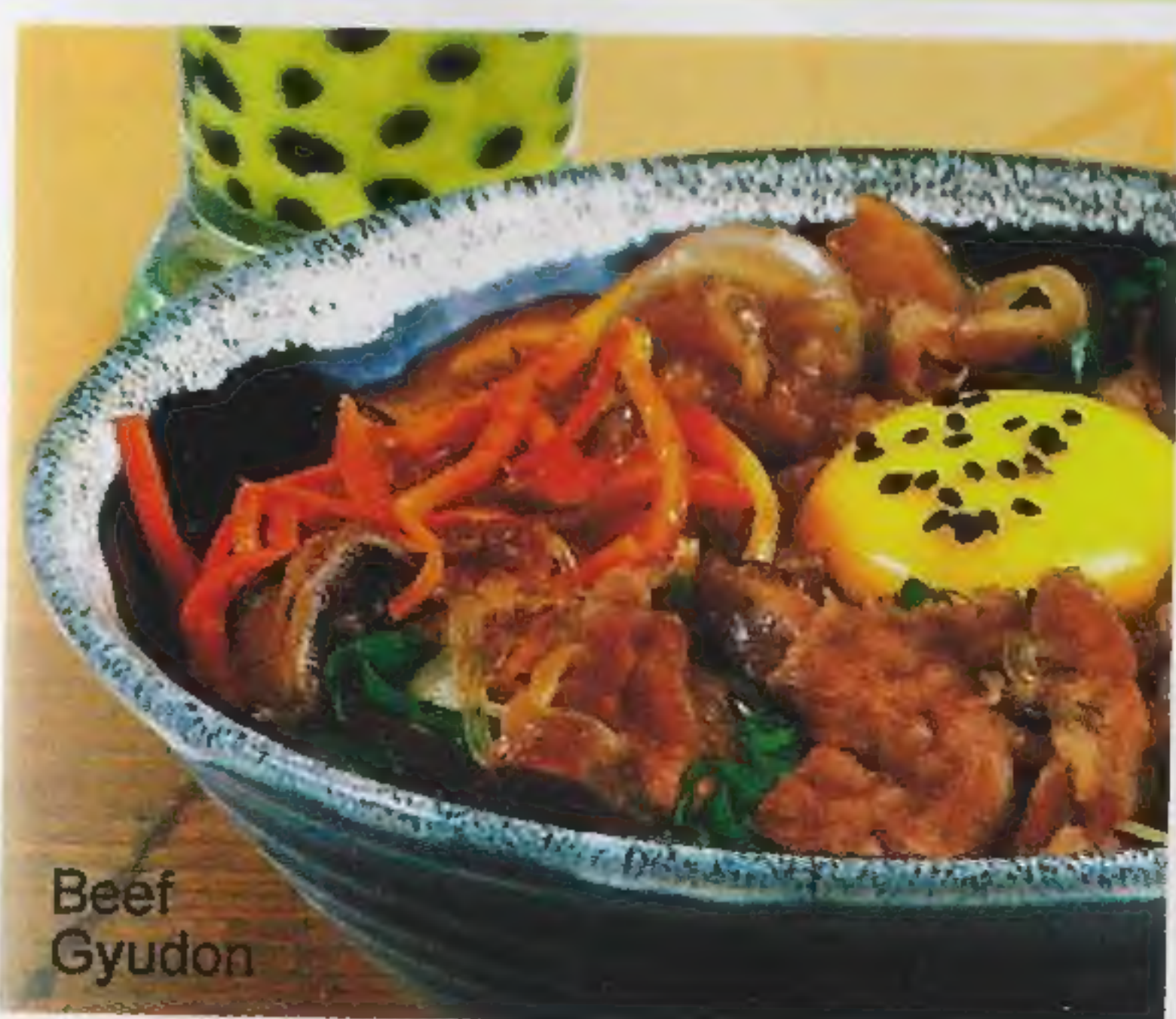


Tokyo Bubble Tea is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambiance encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!



Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambiance and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.



Our Product

We brew our tea everyday to give you the top-quality, fresh, healthy and all natural Tea drinks served with fun soft-chewy bubbles, Tokyo style. In addition, we only offer good, healthy and freshly-cooked food to make sure you get the best out of your favorite Japanese cuisine.



Due to overwhelming response of our customers, Bubble Tea is planning to expand its business and open more outlets in and outside Metro Manila.

Currently, Bubble Tea has branches in SM Megamall & SM North EDSA-The Block, which started 2007, and in Tomas Morato, Q.C. & Wilson, Greenhills, which started 2010, at The Fort, which started 2011 and now open at Westgate in Alabang, Harborpoint in Subic, Robinsons Place in Bacolod and Marquee Mall in Pampanga.



sana po mafeature mekaku city
actor, black bullet saka mahouka
koukou no rettousei asap thanks

- ガルシア ジョンビクター

Plsss. feature no game no
life nisekoi littlebusters
sword art online un lang po
thank you

- Mondale Baquiran

The long wait was all worth it! A handful
of THANK YOU, Otaku Asia Anime
Magazine for bringing out the best anime
every season

I was so delighted to see Shiro and Sora
from No Game No Life as your cover on
your April issue and as expected, you
guys never fail to amaze me on how you
put such great concept together btw, I
hope next issue will still have a
whooping 88 pages hehe

If not for you, guys and your magz
(Blazblue, Nisekoi and No Game No Life),
I would not have enjoyed the Day 3 of
Toycon XD hahahaha

-JAYLockser

konnichiwa Otaku Asia i really
like anime and i already have a
lot of Otaku Asia and because
of that I now know how to
draw anime

-raven wenchelle ann margate

keep up d good work, otakuasia
magazine team

-Jomar Morales Gumboc

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout? Fanart to showoff?
We would love to hear from you!

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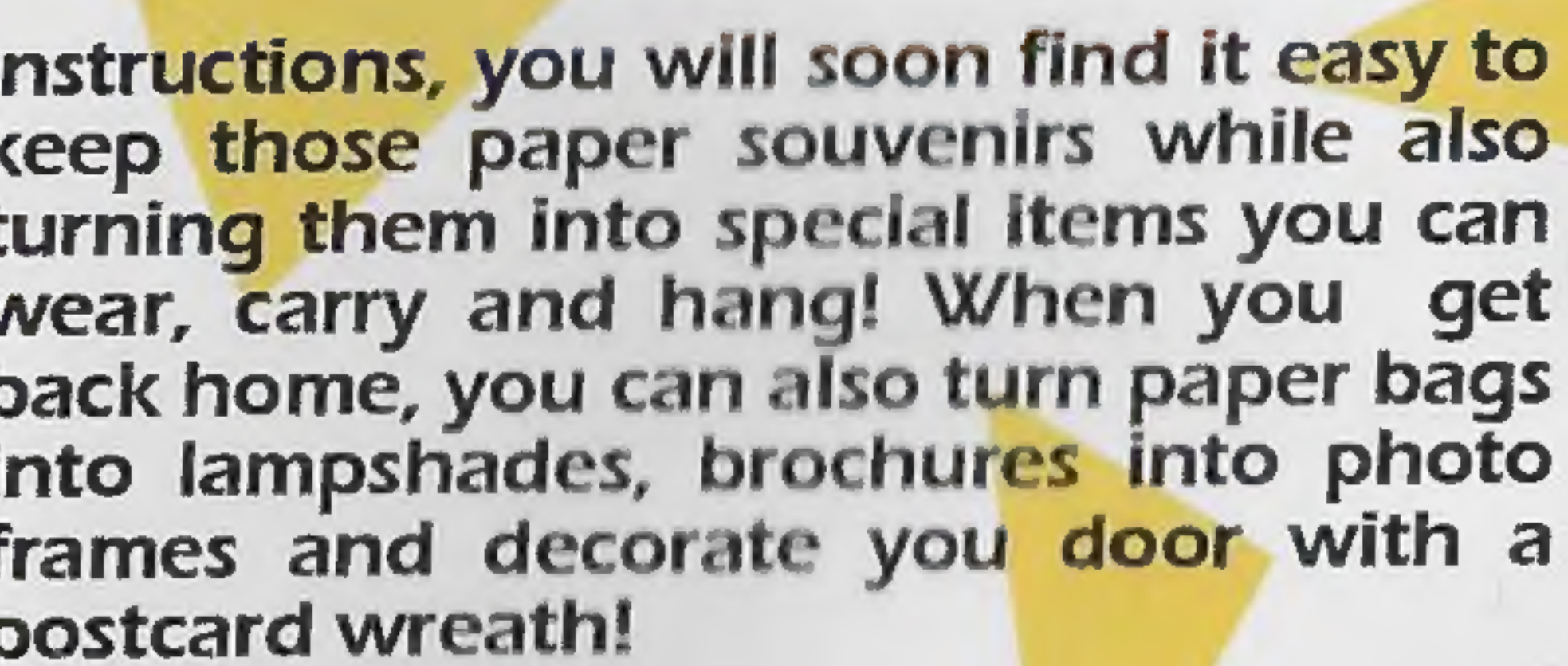




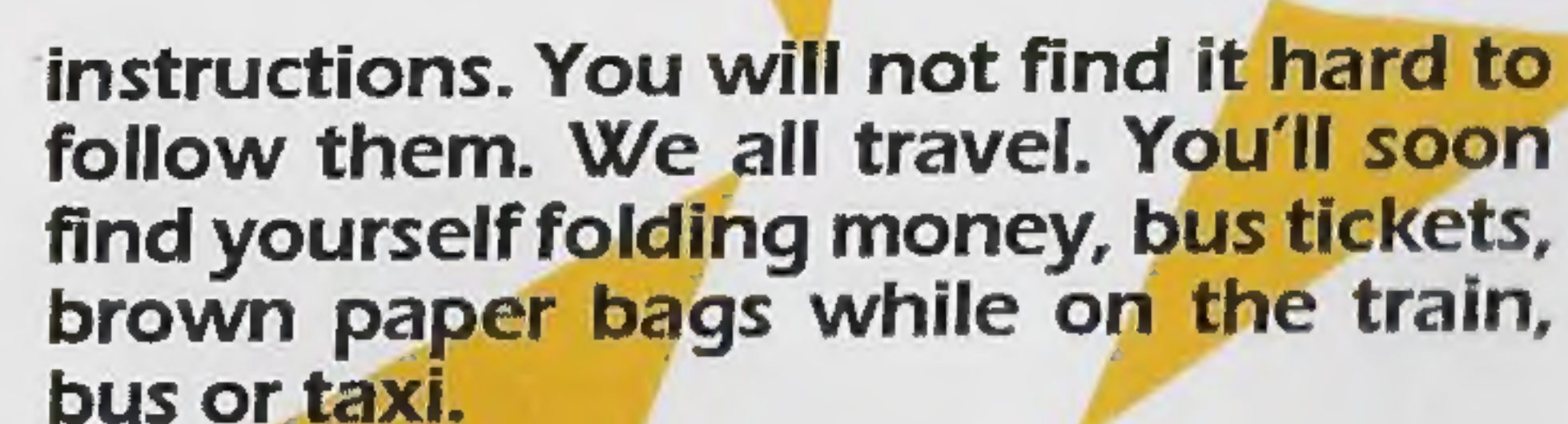
by Kent

Love traveling? We bet you have all those travel brochures, pamphlets, postcards, maps and tickets as souvenirs. Memories are precious so don't let all those keepsakes collect dust. Turn them into beautiful and useful folded origami!

Author Cindy Ng combines love of travel and origami in her book, Travel Origami. In full-colour and step-by-step



The book has 120 pages with 24 projects. It also has notes on the souvenirs, extra challenges and fun hints. Hard to see? Definitely not. A page only has 4 steps at most with fool-proof



With these around you and your house, everything can be a conversation starter and you will always be reminded of those wonderful places and people in your travels.

Why not learn something new and put away those smartphone to create wonderful creations of art?



COSPLAY MANIA 2014 GUESTS REVEALED!



Are you ready for this year's Cosplay Mania? Yes! right? because we at Otaku Asia are already prepared for it.~ Are you guys excited with their guests? If yes then good for you because they already have revealed their guest line up!

Vic Kumiko, Jesuke Jess, Pinky Lu Xun and Orochi X returns at Cosplay Mania this year. Even our beloved cosplayer Reika also returns at Cosplay Mania. Many fans were really happy that she will be guesting again in the event. There are even new ones. The first new guest to be revealed was Tatsumi Inui. He is a japanese cosplayer and also the administrator of World Cosplay website and Cure website. The second one is Aya Ikeda. She is a japanese idol sensation that is known for singing the opening theme songs of the series Pretty Cure (Heartcatch Pretty Cure, Suite Pretty Cure and Smile Pretty Cure). She is also a member of the idol band group "C-Zone". The third one is Vampy Bit Me, an american cosplayer who is also an artist and a model.

There are so many guest cosplayers for this year's Cosplay Mania. Let us welcome them with warm hearts. Mark your calendars as Cosplay Mania will be held on October 4-5, 2014 at SMX Convention Center and let's not waste the opportunity to meet these great and awesome cosplayers. See you on Cosplay Mania!



"This will be the day we've waited for. This will be the day we open up the door." Are you ready for the continuation of the action packed series brought to us by Rooster Teeth?

RWBY Volume 2

written by Ren

In the production diary shown in the Rooster Teeth website, they didn't only give the how to's of their production but also the things to expect in the next volume of RWBY. Here are some of those:



-Volume 2 will feature more characters from different kingdoms and with more villains.



Plus! It will also expound on the briefly introduced bunny-eared character, Velvet Scarlatina, donning on the battle gear that was submitted by a fan.

-It will also explore about what is really going on with the Creatures of Grimm and what are they are really capable of.

-More of the White Fang and their plans.

-The trailer gave us a hint of an upcoming war, mechs and with, of course, more action!

The first episode of Volume 2 was premiered last July 4-6 at the RTX2014 in Texas. During this event, they announced the online release date of the series :July 24, 2014 with each episode to be 12 minutes or longer. RWBY will be also distributed in Japan and will also be dubbed with WB Japan. RWBY products will also come to the stores. Lastly, the RWBY game is now in development with team RWBY as playable characters and will be a multiplayer game!



DARK GENERAL

Series: Rage of Bahamut (Game)
Product: Pre-painted figure
Height: 22cm Weight: 1.48kg
Scale: 1/8
Price: US\$ 149.99

Rage of Bahamut is an online card game from Japan. This figure brings one of the strongest card, Dark General, in a model figure. She is a bit pricey but as a collector, she's worth it. Her body and cloak gives a soft and smooth effect while her armor and weapon are highly detailed. The sculpt is very detailed and so the paint might have a few errors here and there but it's well done for something hand-painted. Her base, a plain black circle is a bit too plain, though.



There is also a white stuff under her feet like she stepped on white putty. We're sure it's for better support, I mean, look at that pose!

- 4/5 **Sculpting** - Smooth and detailed. Her face looks flat.
- 4/5 **Paint** - The gradient and pattern on her cloak looks really great
- 5/5 **Packaging** - Lots of foam :) and it had instructions to help with assembly
- 4/5 **Value** - a bit pricey.

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BENTO BOX

OVEN TOASTER COOKIES!

Ingredients:



1 stick butter



1/2 cup sugar



1 tsp. Star Margarine

1.

Mix the butter, sugar and margarine in a bowl.



2.

Add the flour and egg. Mix



3. It should look like this~



*note:
to achieve paste:

keep adding butter until it becomes like clay and moldable

to handle it without making it sticky:

1. wash your hand and dry

2. powder your fingers with flour

Print the pattern you want your cookie to be. We went with Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon since it's our featured anime.



We placed the mold in the toaster for 5 minutes. The third batch stayed for 4 minutes and the last batch only 3 minutes.

This is because the first batch already 'pre-heated' the oven so the next batches. If you keep on putting it on 5 minutes each batch, you'll risk burning your cookies, breaking your toaster or worse, fire.

We had fun with the cookies and made other shapes like moon, Sailor Moon's brooch, ribbon, little buttons Otaku Asia's O-kun and a simple circle cookies.

Make sure you're being supervised by an adult (or be an adult yourself), wash your hands.



OKAL'TAKU



WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT PHILIPPINES

Sora No Katsuo (WCS Mindanao runner-ups), won the World Cosplay Summit Philippine Finals 2014 and they will be this year's official representatives. This team is composed of Angeleah Mejo as Alisa Bosconovitch and Matsu Bernales as Yoshimitsu from Tekken.

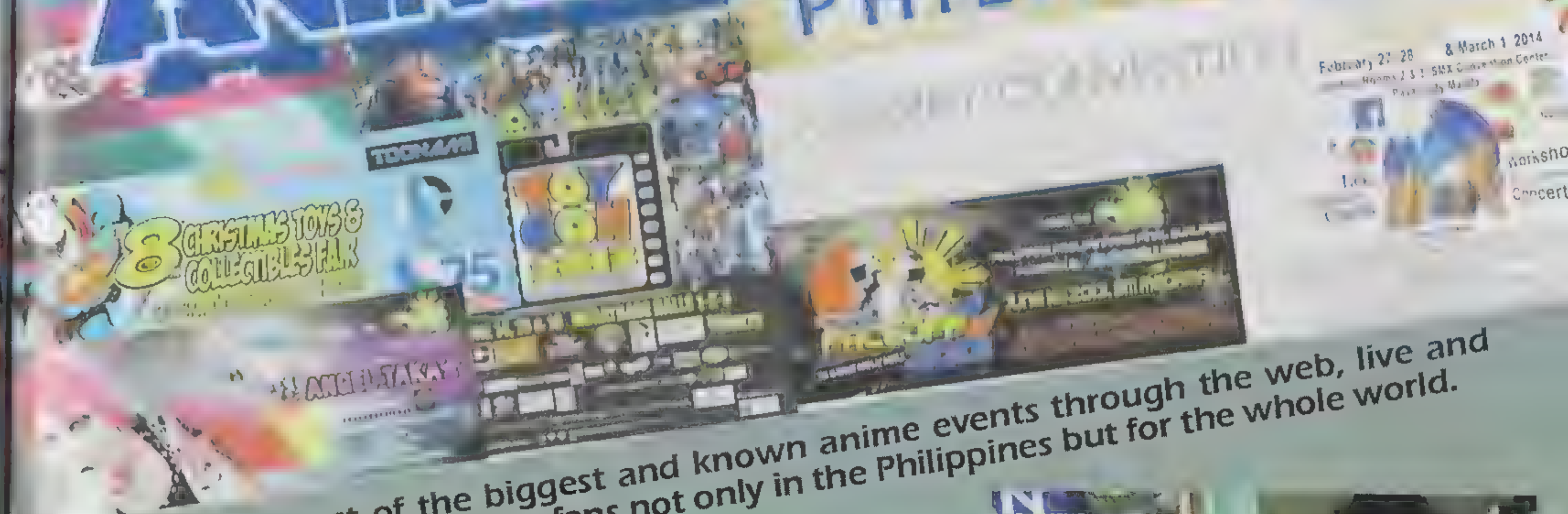
World Cosplay Summit Philippines is an annual country-wide cosplay battle event for the aspiring and talented cosplayers, who wants to be the country's representatives and compete in the prestigious World Cosplay Summit held in Nagoya, Japan.

Gathering the most elite from different regions of the country and battling it out in one stage on Toycon every June. WCS is managed by the Otaku organization, Anime Alliance.



Anime Alliance Philippines (or AAP) is a non-profit, non-government, independent Japan culture organization which aims to provide social interaction with fellow anime fans, a place to play and other pop culture items in the country. AAP members make it a mission organization which helps members who are capable and prepared to enter the industry in the anime industry. They are not only professionally equipped but also occasionally, artistically, and socially nurtured to eventually become well-versed in the field of anime in the mainstream.

ANIME ALLIANCE PHILIPPINES



Covering most of the biggest and known anime events through the web, live and recorded, for the anime fans not only in the Philippines but for the whole world.

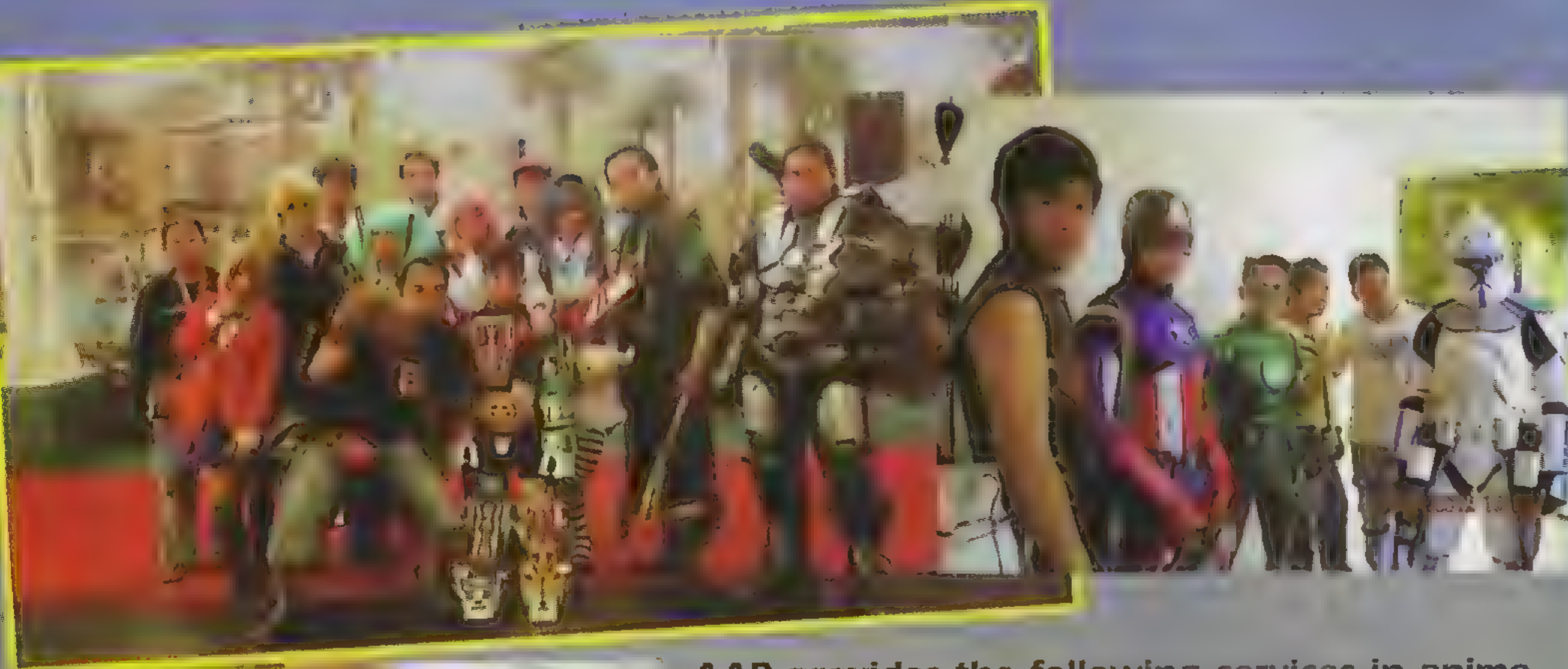


Founded in 2006 by a small group of young Japanese culture enthusiasts, the organization started out as a web-based community that provides live webcasts of Japanese popular culture events for free. Since then, AAP has branched off into their fields such as events organizing and management, and partnerships building with other organizations and individuals.

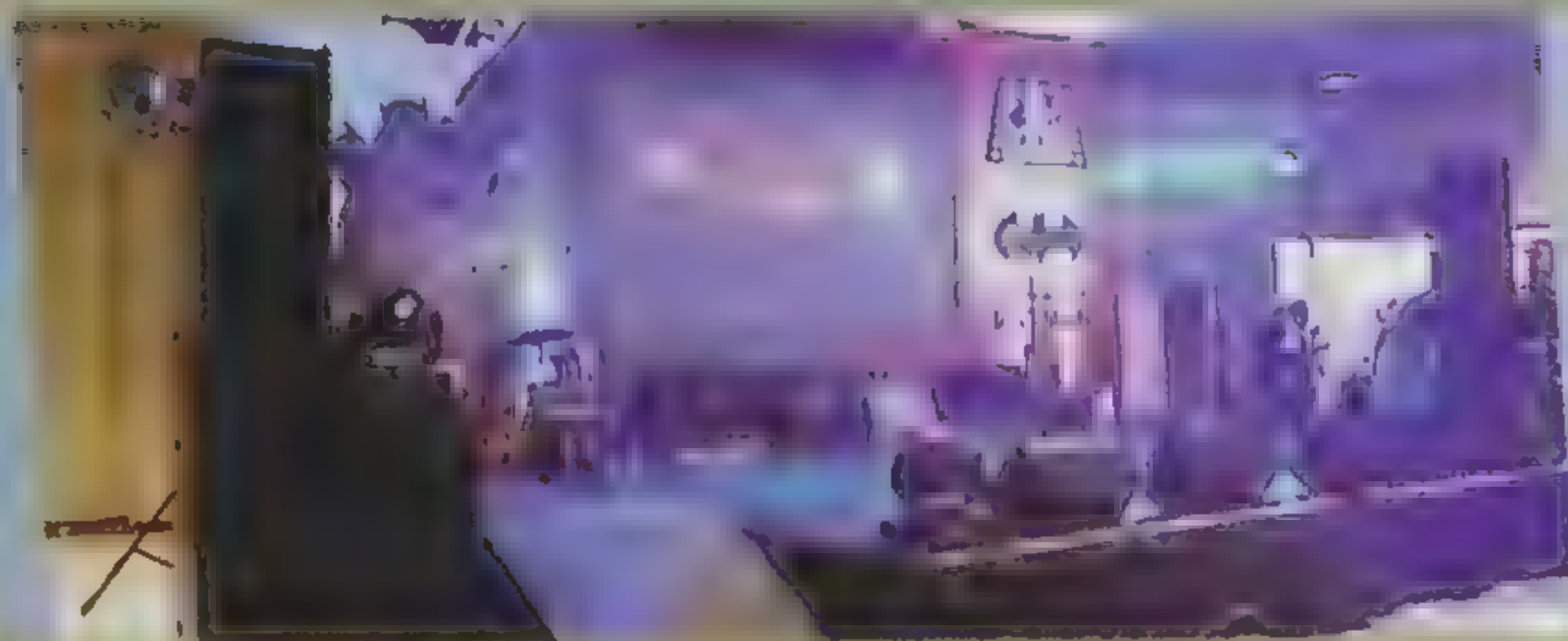
With a dream of achieving a widespread national influence of anime knowledge in the industry, AAP's main goal is to recruit all anime enthusiasts at any age to interact with fellow anime lovers and to unite ourselves as we continue to grow larger all over the globe.



Contributing services to the otaku community, AAP helps costumeplay/cosplay hobby groups, bands, manga artists, animators and toy creators. They are the significant foundation to the successful events such as the Philippine Toys, Hobbies and Collectibles Convention (Philippine ToyCon), and the Hero Nation Convention (formerly known as the Hataw Hanep Hero Convention, organized by Hero TV.)



AAP provides the following services in anime and pop-culture events for free! Cosplay/Anime event management and assistance, Cosplay event consultancy, live webcast and recorded coverages, technical and multimedia assistance, online advertising and event promotions, event marshal and security services.



You can visit their website and check more about them.

Email: Info@animealliance.asia
Website: ph.animealliance.asia
FB page: Anime Alliance Philippines



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by: Yani

THE SWORD MASTER

The Sword Master was established by Miko Garcia in 2012, aiming to help his fellow cosplayers in making the character that they are cosplaying grand by creating high quality props.

The first prop that he made was for himself: Zoro's sword from One Piece which was made of wood and hard cardboard. Many cosplayers noticed his craftsmanship and that was where his business boomed. He easily gained his customers' trust and loyalty with fast response and accommodation towards his inquirers about made to order (MTO) props.



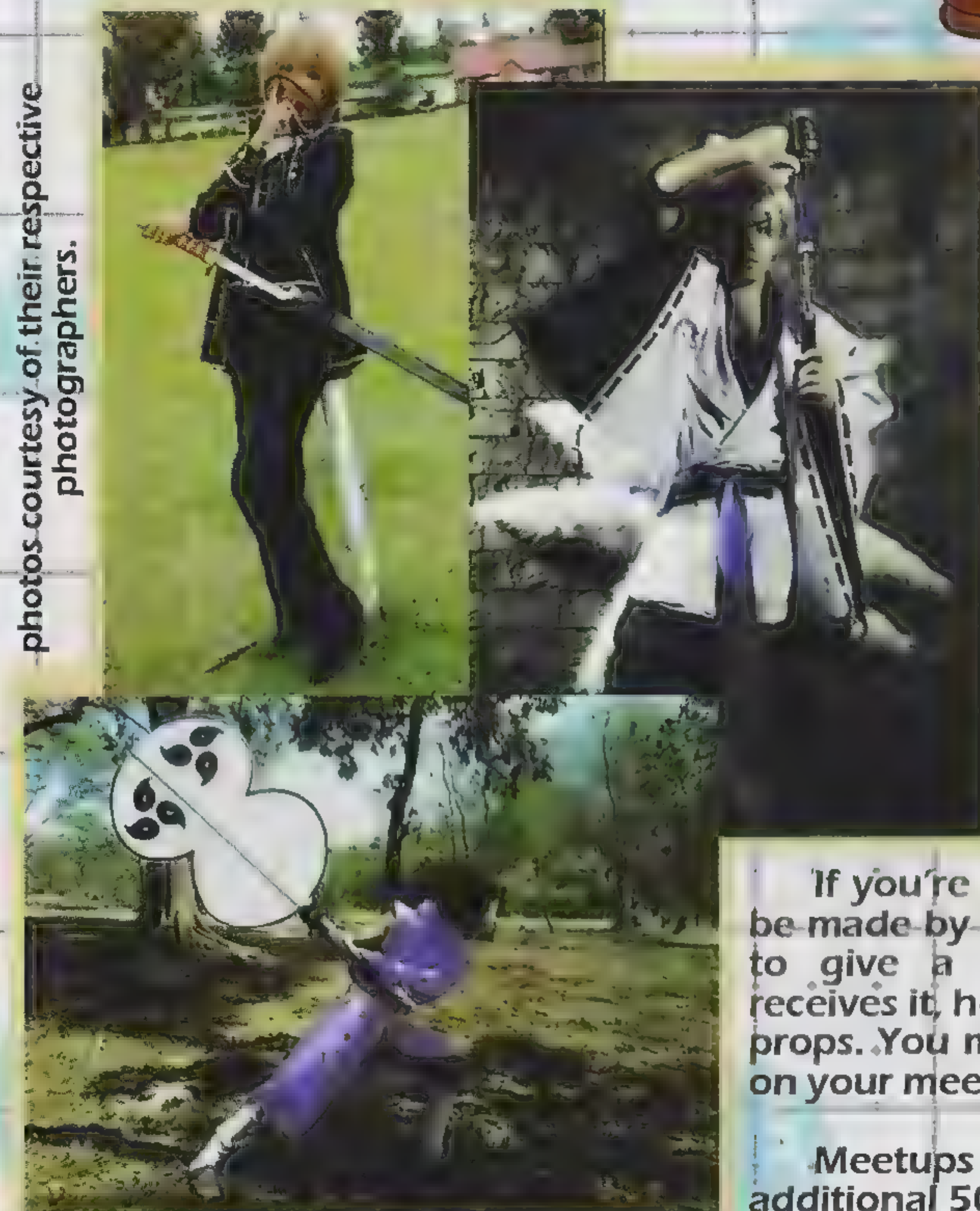
Another good point about The Sword Master is that he uploads images regarding the commissions as an update.

He can finish a katana in 3 days. For some props, it would take 1-2 weeks, depending on the style and size of the prop.

He gives big discounts if you will commission props in bulks. He will not disappoint you in terms of the quality and the accuracy of the prop/s.

If you're interested to have your props to be made by The Sword Master, you just have to give a 50% downpayment. Once he receives it, he will immediately start with your props. You may give the rest of the payment on your meetup with him to get the weapon.

Meetups are at LRT and MRT with additional 50 pesos as transpo fee.



photos courtesy of their respective photographers.

Some of the works by the master:



Stocking's Anarchy Sword
Panty & Stocking with
Garterbelt



Noctis Engine Sword
Final Fantasy XIII



Uchiha Madara's armor
Naruto Shippuden



Katarina's Weapons
League of Legends



Katanas



Ryuko Matoi's Scissors Blade
Kill a Kill



Akatsuki's Kodachi
Log Horizon



Kirito's broadsword (ALO)
Sword Art Online



THE SWORD MASTER'S KATANA PROCESS REVEALED!

MATERIALS:

Pencil
Scissors
Tape measure
Ruler
Cutter
Acrylic Emulsion
Wall putty
Shoe lace (thick)
Greco
Enamel Paint Black & White
Rubber sheet 4mm & 2mm
Wood: 1/2x2x3
Gold Paint



STEP 1:

Trace the length of the ruler in the wood similar in the picture.

(If you have a different ruler, the width should be 1 inch.)



STEP 2:

Carefully cut the wood using the cutter. It is advisable that you do this on a cutting board and with adult supervision.

Note: cutting the wood may take time and will cause your hands to ache



STEP 3:

Cover the whole surface with wall putty. Wait for it to dry. Then use sand paper to smoothen the surface.

Fact: wall putty prevents the wood from absorbing the paint.



STEP 4:

Cut a 4x9 inch and a 4x27 inch in the 4mm rubber sheet. The 4x9 will be used for the handle and the 4x27 will be used for the scabbard.



STEP 5:

Draw and cut a sphere measuring 90 x70 cm on the 4mm rubber sheet and a 1x12 inch on the 2mm rubber sheet for the details.



STEP 6:

Assemble it together using greco. It should be similar with the picture on the right.

For the scabbard, roll it and put them together. Cut another sphere that matches the size of the edge part of the scabbard and glue it.



STEP 7:

Apply emulsion all over the rubber part. Wait for it to dry and then paint it similar with the picture on the left side. Wait for it to dry again and put emulsion all over the katana again. Then, criss cross the lace similar to the picture.



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KATANA

THE SWORD MASTER

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Owner: Miko Garcia

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by Ann

Cucumber Salad

The summer heat continues and if you don't want the heat get into your head, give your mouth and tummy treats that will surely keep you fresh and cool. But cold treats don't always mean sinking our teeth into something too sweet and has too many calories; let the Japanese cuisine help you do it the healthy way!

Kyuri or cucumber is best known for being succulent because of its water contents. Aside from that, it can also be crisp and sweet. Cucumbers are mostly used in salads to let its own unique taste burst in your mouth along with the flavors of other ingredients. One of the most popular side dish in Japan is kyuri no sunomono or cucumber salad marinated with the sweetness of sanbaizu (three-flavored vinegar) sauce.



1. Sprinkle salt on the cucumber slices, mix, and let it stand for five minutes.
2. Make sanbaizu dressing by combining rice vinegar, soy sauce, sugar and dashi in a pan. Let it simmer until sugar dissolves.
3. Squeeze the water from the cucumbers.
4. Pour dressing on the cucumbers, and top it with sesame seeds. Serve it chilled. You can also add kani (crab sticks) or wakame (seaweed) if you like.

Enjoy!

Matcha Mochi Cupcakes are made from its main ingredient Mochiko. Mochiko is a sweet rice flour. The flour is useful for certain applications in gluten-free baking/cooking. Breads made of this flour is a good replacement for burgers and other heavy snacks if you want to eat a simple bread yet will make you feel full. You can find Mochiko on any Asian markets, mostly on Japan.

But, you can't put a Matcha Mochi Cupcake if you don't know how to make it. So we will list down a short recipe on how to prepare a Matcha Mochi Cupcake. This recipe is from My Japanese Table:

A Lifetime of Cooking with Friends and Family

by Debra Samuels

Tuttle Publishing 2011

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 cups Mochiko (sweet rice flour) | 1 cup sugar |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 3 eggs |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1 1/2 cups milk |
| 2 teaspoons matcha (green tea powder) | 1 can (15 ounces) sweet adzuki beans |
| 3/4 cup canola oil | |

1. Set the oven at 375 degrees F. Line a muffin tin with paper or foil cups.
2. In a bowl, combine the rice flour, baking powder, salt, and green tea. Whisk well.
3. In another larger bowl, mix the oil and sugar. Add the eggs and milk and whisk vigorously. Add the rice flour mixture and mix with a rubber spatula until completely blended.
4. Fill the cupcake papers half full with the batter. Add a scant tablespoon of the adzuki beans. Spoon a little more batter over the beans. This should come just below the tops of the papers.
5. Bake the cupcakes for 20 to 25 minutes or until they begin to crack. Set on a wire rack to cool.

matcha mochi cupcakes

by Philip





by: Yani

RED RIDING HOOD TUTORIAL

MATERIALS:



Shears
Red Cloth of your choice
Red thread
Pattern Paper or Manila Paper
snaps/automatic pins



PATTERN:



*the pattern should have .5 inches sewing allowance.

If you are using a satin cloth, be sure to have a sewing allowance larger than .5

*desired length of the hood.

STEP 1:

Draw the pattern on the manila paper/pattern paper. Cut it then trace it on the red cloth. The pattern of the hood should be traced 4 times.

STEP 2:

Combine the 4 hoods into 2. Put pins so that it won't move while sewing it. Leave the neck part open. (not stitched together).



STEP 3:

Then combine the two hoods. the stitched part must be outside on both sides and sew them together, leaving again the neck part unstitched.

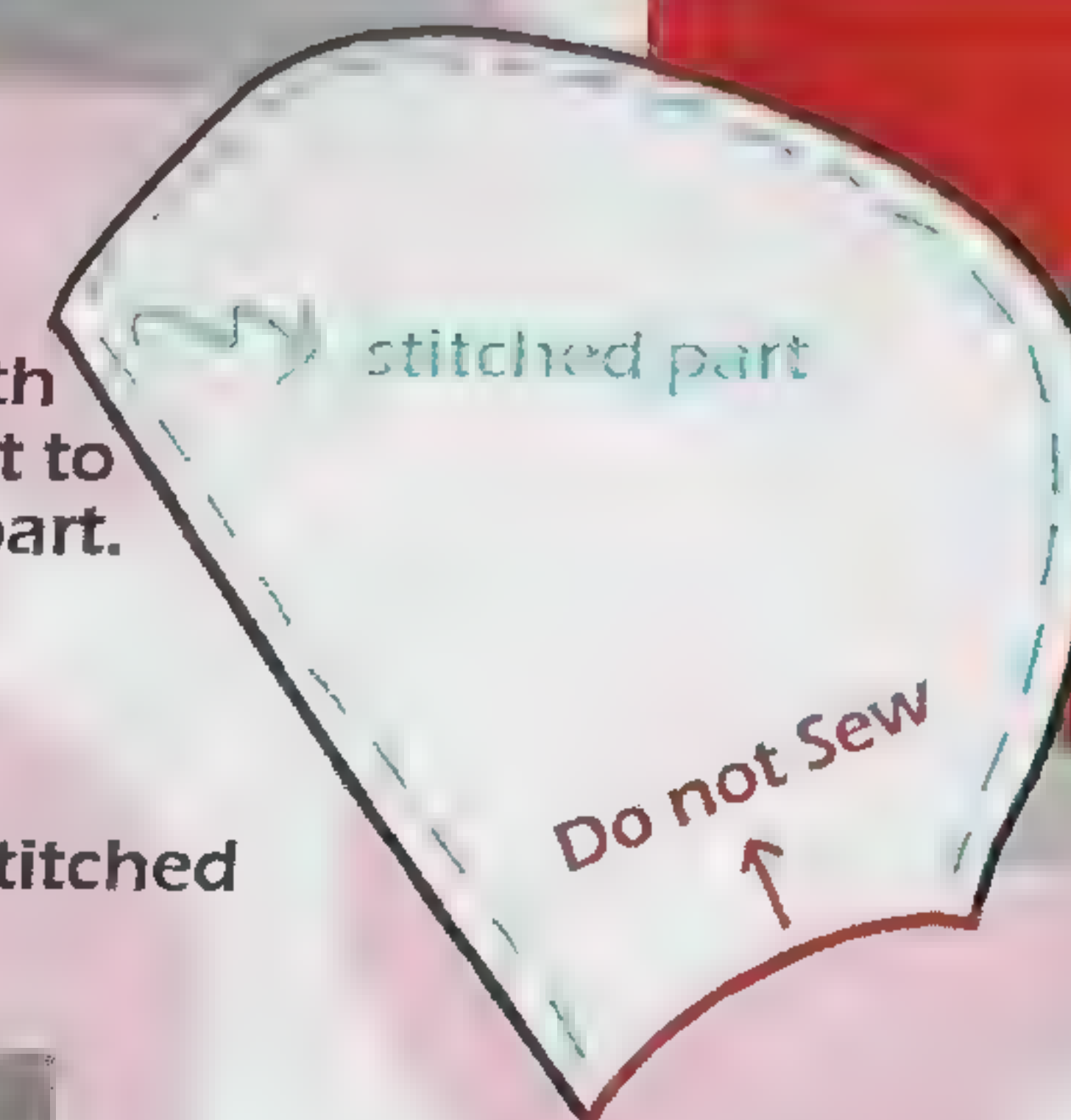


STEP 4:

Cut the edges similar with the image. Be careful not to reach past the stitched part.

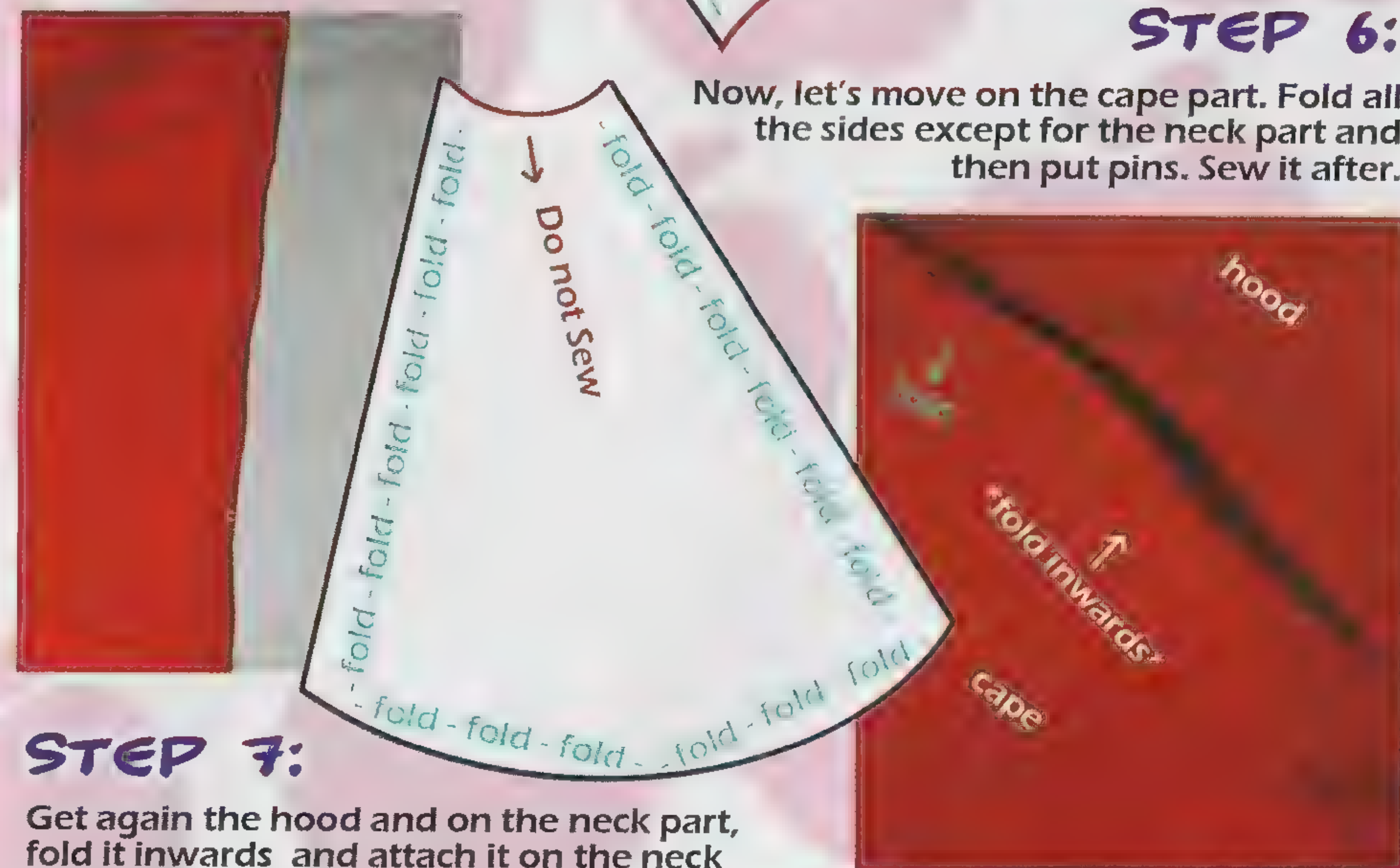
STEP 5:

Reverse the hood. The stitched side must be inside.



STEP 6:

Now, let's move on the cape part. Fold all the sides except for the neck part and then put pins. Sew it after.



STEP 7:

Get again the hood and on the neck part, fold it inwards and attach it on the neck part of the cape. Put pins and then sew it.

RIBBON TUTORIAL

STEP 1:

Get a piece of red cloth measuring 9x12 inches. Then fold it in the middle and sew the sides. Reverse it.



—fold inside—



STEP 2:

It should like the picture on the left side. Fold the open part inwards and then sew all the sides.



STEP 3:

Get a piece of red cloth measuring 6x20 inches. Fold it in the middle lengthwise and then sew all the edges except for one short side. Fold it inwards and then sew all sides.



STEP 4:

Get another piece of red cloth and then use it to merge the 2 cloths done earlier. It should similar with the picture



STEP 5:

Put automatic/ snaps on the neck part and then the ribbon after.



And there you go~ riding hood cape made by yourself

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J-IDOL

written by James

Putting Kawaii in Heavy Metal

Whenever the word "metal" is used in music, what comes into mind is a band composed of long-haired, grown-up guys wearing black and playing really loud music. Of course, this is a stereotypical image of a metal band. But among those who break this stereotype is a metal group that sounds like a fusion of dance-pop and heavy metal. Unbelievable? Why not have a look and listen to Babymetal?

With Su-metal (Suzuka Nakamoto) on vocals and Moametal (Moa Kikuchi) and Yuimetal (Yui Mizuno) on screams, Babymetal was originally formed as a sub-unit of the idol group Sakura Gakuin. The group is handled by the talent agency Amuse Inc. and produced by Kobametal.



Yui Mizuno
Yuimetal

Aside from being a member of Babymetal and its Sakura Gakuin, Yui is also a member of its other sub-units, Twinklestars and Minipati.

Suzuka Nakamoto
Su-metal

Lead singer of Babymetal, Suzuka was a student of the Actors School Hiroshima, until she won the Bandai Jewel Drop Image Girl Contest and Amuse's 2nd Annual Star Kids Audition. After that, she joined Karen Girl's in 2008, which broke up in 2009, and then joined Sakura Gakuin in 2010. Despite her graduation from Sakura Gakuin in 2013, she remained in Babymetal.

The name of the band is a play on the two words "heavy metal", with "baby" replacing "heavy", as the word denotes cuteness, with metal intensity. Another interpretation could be "newborn metal", as their brand of metal is a newborn genre, and rightfully so, as according to their record label, their musical genre is known as "kawaii metal".

The trio combines their sweet and upbeat idol singing style, a little bit of techno, cute dance moves, heavy metal drum beats and guitar riffs, and black-and-red

Lolita-themed apparel. The group is also accompanied by a backup band in their concerts, which is either the mime band, Babybone, or the live band, Full Metal Band.

The group began with indie releases such as Doki Doki Morning in 2011, and Babymetal x Kiba of Akiba, a two-song indie album with two bonus tracks, which in 2012, was able to rank third place in the Oricon weekly indie chart and first in the Tower Records Shibuya weekly indie ranking. Come 2013, the group released its first major debut single "Ijime, Dame, Zettai" (No More Bullying), which sold 19,000 copies in its first week and ranked six during its debut in the Oricon weekly singles chart. They followed it up with its single Megitsune. February of 2013, the group released its first self-titled album, which contained five of Babymetal's singles that were released from 2011-2013, their B-sides, and new songs, including their breakaway hit "Gimme chocolate!!". The album debuted in 4th place on Oricon Weekly Charts, and quickly rose to number one on both US and UK iTunes metal charts.

Moa Kikuchi
Moa Metal

Moa is also a member of Twinklestars and Minipati aside from Babymetal and Sakura Gakuin. Moa's idol career began after winning the grand prix award for the Ciao Girl Audition 2007.

With their unorthodox musical and visual style being a mix of things you never thought would go well with each other, Babymetal has birthed a new genre and is poised to melt our hearts with their cuteness and sweet voice and rock our world anew.

Megitsune

(Sore! (7X))
(Sore! (7X))

Omekashi kitsune-san
(Chiki Chiki wasshoi!! (2X))
Tsuinte nabika sete
(Hira Hira wasshoi!! (2X))

Hajikete doron shite
(Kuru Kuru wasshoi!! (2X))
Iza yuke shichihenge
(Konkonkonko
konkonkolkon!)

(Sore! (7X))
(Sore! (7X))

inishie no otome tachi yo
kari some no yume ni
odoru
ikusen no toki wo koete
ima o ikiru

A~ sou yo itsu demo onna
wa joyuu yo
kitsune janai kitsune janai
otome na megitsune

A~ yamato nadeshiku
onna wa kawaru no
kao de waratte kokoro de
naite
'sou yo ne'tte namida wa
misenai no

Kitsune kitsune
watashi wa megitsune
onna wa joyuu yo

(soiya (12X) sore! (4X))
(soiya (12X) sore! (4X))

(Sore! (3X) Sore sore sore
Sore!)
(Sore! (3X) Sore sore sore
Sore!)

inishie no otome tachi yo
kari some no yume ni utau
ikusen no toki wo koete
koko ni ikiru

A~ sou yo itsu demo onna
wa joyuu yo
kitsune janai kitsune janai
otome wa "Name tara i
kanzeyo!"

A~ yamato nadeshiku
onna wa kawaru no
zutto itsumo kienai you ni
hanabi wo ageru no

A~ saite chiru no ga
onna no sadame yo
kao de waratte kokoro de
naite
junjou otomena megitsune
yo

A~

RAMEN

The rainy season is at us again. This time maybe even stronger than before. In Japan, the rainy season is called "Tsuyu". I first knew about it when reading xxxHolic when Watanuki meets the Ame-Warashi the rain maker.

My favorite thing about Japanese rainy season is the bloom of hydrangeas. To warm the body, there's ramen.

this time, we will follow runnyrunny999's video recipe. Taro runs the youtube account, Runny who has been making cooking videos since 2008. We chose him as source because we think that no one is better suited to teach Japanese food than a Japanese himself!

We shopped for the ingredients in Little Tokyo, Makati.

INGREDIENTS

Ingredients for soup (1 serving)
: 300ml water
: 2-3 tbsp mentsuyu or soy sauce
: 2 tsp (Chinese) chicken stock powder
: A little grated ginger and garlic
: A little sesame oil

Suggested toppings
: chicken slices
: chopped spring onion
: corn kernels
: tofu
: mushroom
: narutomaki
: carrot
: nori
: cabbage
: and more~

: Raw ramen noodle
alternative:

: angel hair pasta cooked in water,
salt and baking powder until al
dente

: half boiled egg
preparation:
boil egg. transfer egg in ice
cold water immediately after 6
minutes. wait for it to cool. roll
egg gently on cutting board to
break shell. carefully peel shell
off. cut egg.

PROCEDURE

0.1 Prepare your toppings before anything. You can't risk the soup getting cold if you prepare the toppings later on.

1. In a pan, mix all the soup ingredients and bring it to a boil in medium heat. Keep it hot while making the noodle.

2. Put the raw ramen noodle in boiling water for about 3 minutes while constantly stirring. Drain the noodle well.

If you are using the alternative angel hair pasta, you don't need to boil it again.

3. Strain the hot noodle soup into a bowl. Add the noodle.

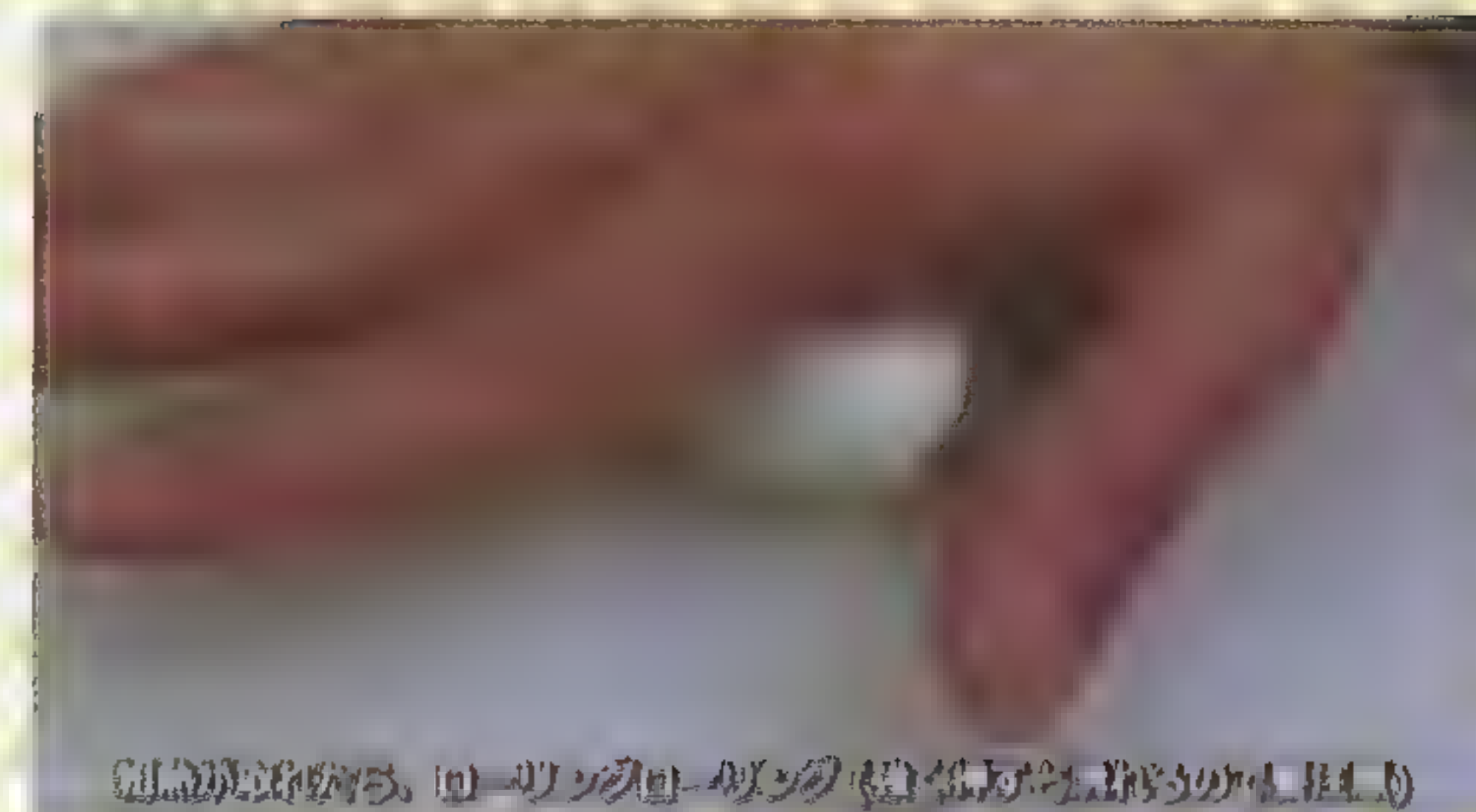
4. Arrange your toppings.

Enjoy

To eat ramen:

Make lots of slurping noises. Apparently, it's considered a compliment to the chef (yourself) if you make noise because it means that the ramen is good and that you're enjoying it.

Also because ramen is best served hot and somehow slurping helps you forget that your mouth is actually burning. Haha!



watch the video here:





CHEST BINDING

Cosplaying is super fun especially when its the character you love the most. Some girls want to cosplay male characters. However, there can be problems with hiding the chest area. Good thing there are several ways OA can teach you.

1. Chest binder/ Compression shirt or a tight sport bra

Sports bras are meant for flattening your chest so they won't go bouncing around when doing sports or activities. Chest binders are almost the same except it has a flat front. There are different types: those with hooks and non-hooks, mid-rib or sando type. It can either come in sizes or one-size-fits-all.

Make sure to get the right size so your breathing won't be constricted.

*Chest binders are available on-hand at Cosmic Bytes



2. Bandages

Medical bandages come in different sizes. We recommend the 6" wide since it covers more space and it's comfortable.

Stretch the bandage around your chest from the upper part downwards to flatten it. You might want to put talcum powder on your chest and sides before you bind. Tuck or pin the end of the roll to secure the bind.



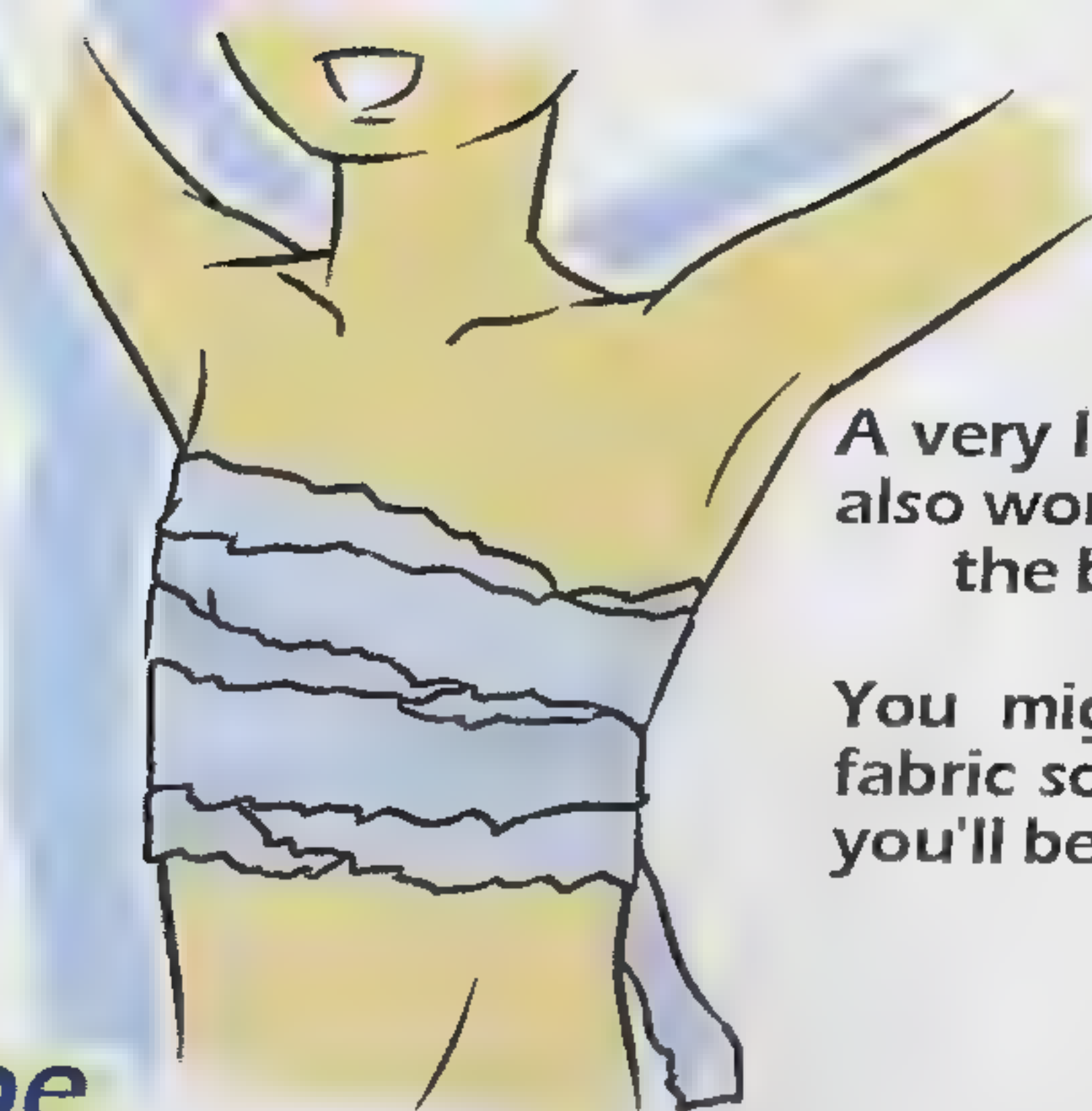
3. Girdle/ Waist Trimmer

This is a thick and hot to wear binding material. Designed to instantly make the waist smaller, you can also use this to flatten your chest. Most designs comes with adjustable hooks so you can choose the comfortability you prefer.

You'll often find girdle at a small price.



4. Cloth Wrap

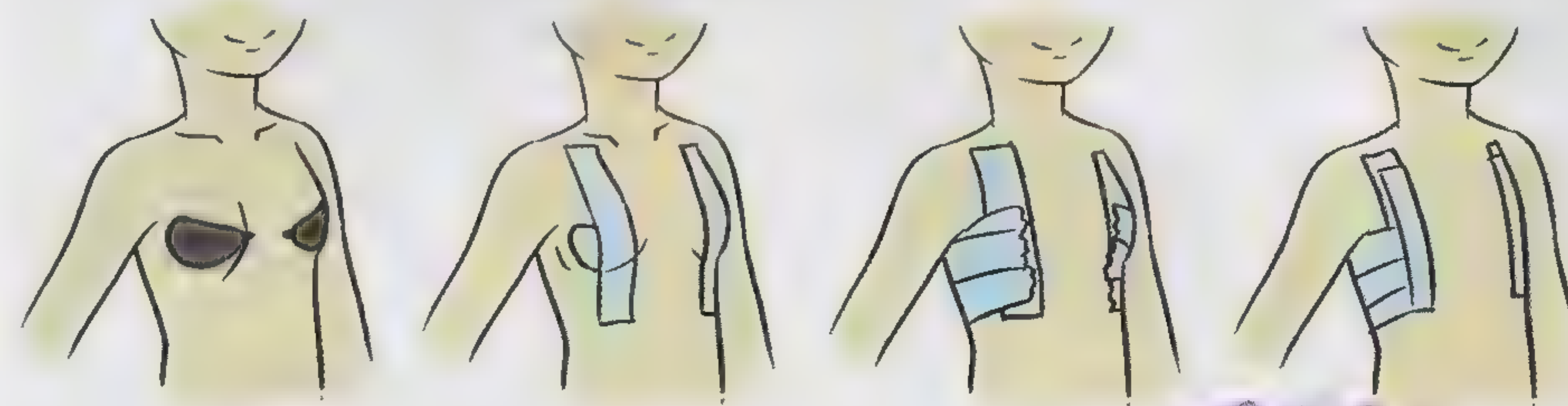


A very long strip of cloth wrap or a narrow obi also works as great chest flattener. Used just like the bandages, but it doesn't stretch as much.

You might want to use 'breathable' types of fabric so it won't be too hot, especially because you'll be wrapping layers of it around your chest.

5. Tape

First of all, **NEVER USE DUCT TAPES**. Sport tapes might be a bit expensive but they are great because they are designed for skin contact. Using tape is perfect for open-chest type of binding. You'll be needing baby oil and a hot shower while taking it off though~ Yes you'll be a bit sticky afterwards, but your skin will definitely thank you.



6. Layers of shirts

If you want a bind-less cover and your chest isn't that noticeable, you can just wear layers of shirts. Wearing cloth over another helps to hide the bulges and shadows on your chest.



TIPS ON CHEST BINDING~

*Don't bind too tight! You wouldn't want to experience difficulty breathing or broken/cracked ribs. Allow blood to circulate freely and make sure you'll be able to move easily.

*When doing chest bind, be sure to cover up your 'nips' first. You can use cottonballs or a sticky gel-bra before you wrap it up, especially when you're doing a tape bind.

*Take a break! Nothing can beat a good stretch in the middle of your day. It also helps your chest to 'breathe' and rest. 4-5 hours is the ideal time to stay binded. Take a minute break before wrapping it again.

*Helping hands. Have a friend who can help you bind. It may be a bit embarrassing at first, but that's what friends are for. Keeping both arms up helps binding easier and you can't do that alone. Make sure to help your friend as well.

If you have more questions on this, find us on Facebook, facebook.com/otakuasiaanimemagazine



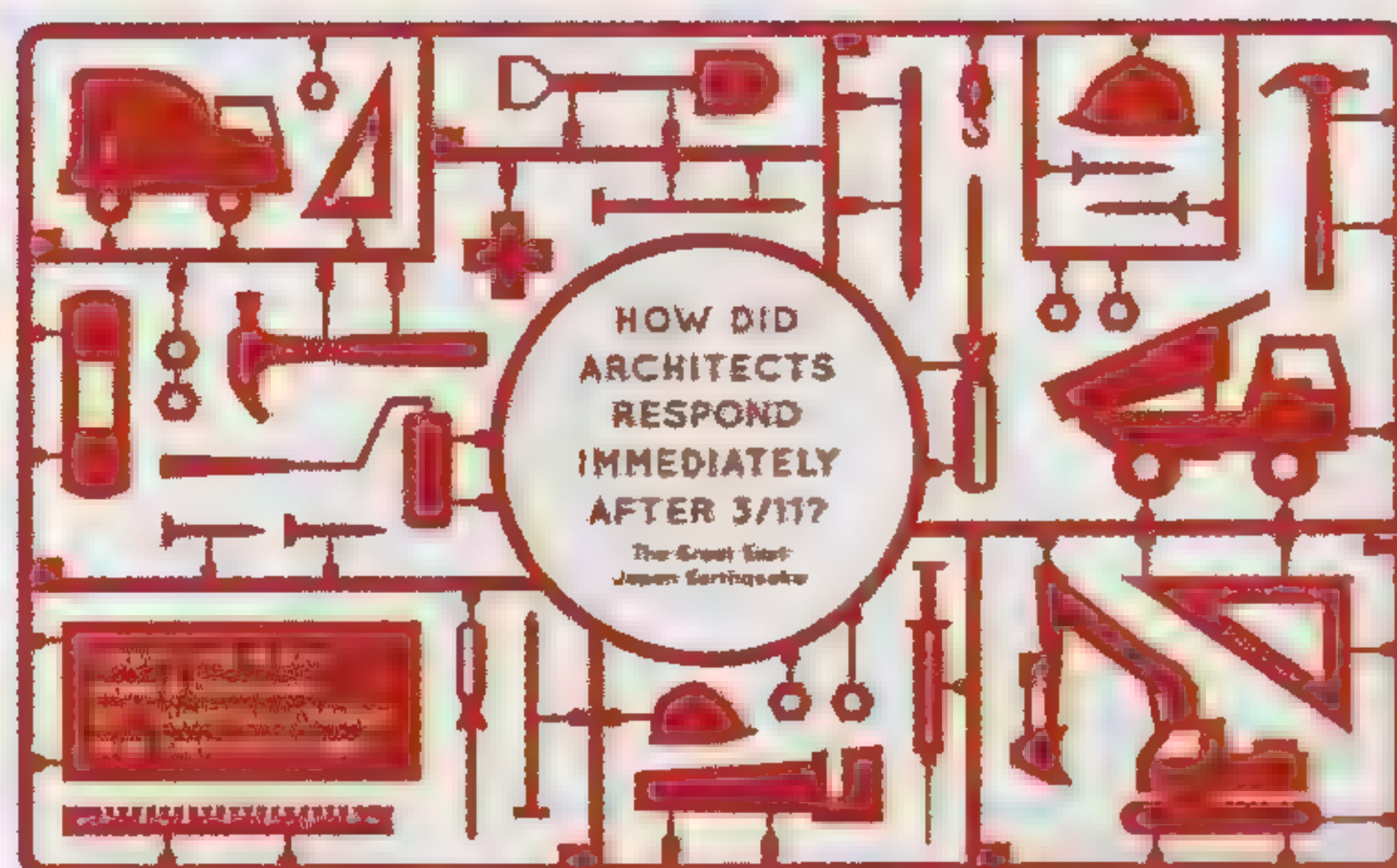
Philippine-Japan Friendship Month

A friendship that turned into a family

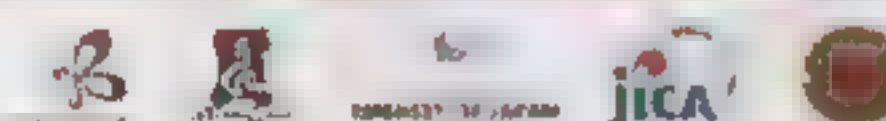
It is a friendship that first started out in a period of international disputes but was strengthened by time, faith and interdependent cultures. Now, the Philippines and Japan are enjoying the fruits of that bond that stood the test of differences and hardships.

It has been 56 years since this bond started, and it was further reinforced by the adversities that both countries went through in the past such as The Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, and last year's typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. To better appreciate this fellowship, the Embassy of Japan is promoting the celebrations made for the month of July by turning it into the official Philippines-Japan Friendship Month while July 23 is considered the Philippines-Japan Friendship Day. This was declared in 2006 during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of their diplomatic relations.

For its 6th anniversary, the Embassy and Japan Foundation Manila (JFM) are already cooking up something to look forward to on Philippines-Japan Friendship Month. Early this May, the Embassy of Japan announced the acceptance of entries for the annual JPOP Anime Sing and Dance Contest. The Grand Finals is set to be on stage on July 19 at the SM Cinema Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



The Japan Foundation, Manila
in cooperation with the UP Asian Center



Meanwhile, JFM also began the traveling exhibition called "How Did Architects Respond Immediately After 3/11" on June 9 that continues until July 14. The exhibit features the works of participants such as architects, designers, and engineers from all over Japan to demonstrate the infrastructure priorities they placed in building after the havoc of the earthquake. More highlights of the exhibit are the planned projects of Japan to address preparation before, during, and after a disaster through the emergency response, temporary housing and reconstruction projects. In addition to the Japanese ideas are the post-quake restoration project ideas from the global community in the "Foreign Proposals" section of the exhibit. The exhibit is located at the Japan and China Halls of the GT-Toyota Hall of Wisdom, at the Asian Center in the University of the Philippines, Diliman.



In addition, JFM is offering Eiga Sai screening featuring 16 contemporary Japanese films that tell tales of loss, survival, hope, and family which is the central theme of JFM's Eiga Sai this year. JFM highlights four of these movies in their press release.

Homeland (Ieji) is directed by Nao Kubota and deals with the issue of the danger of Japan's nuclear plants through the story of a family affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima which followed the 9.0-magnitude earthquake in Japan. Also stressing the aftermaths of this tragedy is **Reunion** (Itai Asu e no tokakan) which is directed by Ryoichi Kimizuka and portrays how a funeral employee takes care of the bodies of the dead in a makeshift morgue in a high school gymnasium. As for the dead in the film **Until the Break of Dawn** (Tsunagu), directed by Yuichiro Hirakawa and based on the best-selling novel of Mizuki Tsujimura, they are attempted to be reached by a young man working as a "tsunagu" or an intermediary between the living and the dead. Finally, how a family consisting of an unusual bunch of a human mother and her half-human, half-wolf children survives the loss of her husband and their father is portrayed in **Wolf Children** (Ookamikodomo no Ame to Yuki) by director of the acclaimed films The Girl Who Leapt Through Time and Summer Wars, Hosoda Mamoru.

These films will be on the big screen at the Shang Cineplex Cinema 2, Shangri-la Plaza on July 3 to 13; Abreeza Mall Cinema, Ayala, Davao City on July 25 to 27; FDCP Cinematheque, Davao City on July 29 to August 3; and Ayala Center Cinema 4, Cebu City on August 6 to 10.

The events that the Embassy of Japan and JFM along with other partner organizations are manifestations of the bond that the Filipinos and Japanese share. It is a bond that goes beyond friendship. We have become a family that will have a firm grasp of our strong links which can withstand the raptures of natural disasters.



COSPLAY

The hobby called **cosplay**, is short for costume-play. Participants called **cosplayers** wear costumes and accessories to represent a specific character or idea. They also interact through role playing where they identify themselves as the character they are representing.

A rising star is on his way to the likes of Alodia Gosiengfiao, Myrtle Sarrosa, Zhel Guiral, Jin Joson, Lyron Aquino, Pablo Bairan, and Guy Singson. You may have heard of him cosplaying as Sanji of One Piece and Jack Frost from the animated film Rise of the Guardians. Truly, Liui Aquino is another addition to some of the best Filipino cosplayers we have today as his name resounded throughout the country, the Internet, the world, and Berk.

Berk is the home of Vikings such as Hiccup, the main character of the film How To Train Your Dragon. The film was made by Dreamworks in 2010 and this June, it is back with a sequel to follow the adventures of Hiccup and his dragon, Toothless.

When the new character design for Hiccup went viral, Liui Aquino saw an opportunity. He told us about working with another cosplayer and friend, Lyron Aquino, known for his Barnaby Brooks Jr and full armor suits and owner of LyMe Cos props making shop, for his costume. He was supposed to release the Hiccup costume during ToyCon along with the release of Authority Hoodie's Toothless hoodie. Instead, he released the costume online for the world to see.

Liui Aquino is not just another cosplayer for he is also one of Hero TV's talent acts. He has done several commercials for them.

Pictures of Liui Aquino as Hiccup are taken by father Resty Aquino. The wig was by Cosmic Bytes Cosplay Shop, lens was by Eye Candy Shop, and costume was by LyMe Cos.



That's awesome. So we get to see this creativity through your costumes but how often can we see them in person?

I go to conventions. Sadly, I don't go very often. I would definitely go to the big events like ToyCon and Cosplay Mania, where I debuted in 2011. I also seldom do photoshoots. Usually after a costume is finished.

Do you go with a partner or a group?

I wouldn't call her a partner but when Kristell Lim asks me to cosplay a couple or a duo with her because we both like the series or the characters, I go with her. She's also my mentor in a way. And I also teamed up with Jane Bernadette for my first cosplay, Princess Azula and Prince Zuko. As for the group, there are a lot of problems. Sometimes they depend solely on you, we have different schedules or they back out.

Then what is the craziest thing that you've done for cosplay?

Well, I watched 28 episodes in 2 days and rewatched it 2-3 times over the week all to understand a character. I also stay awake for 48 hours or more but still stay hyper. Are those crazy enough?

How about cross-dressing?

I get that a lot. I'm not against it. Actually, I'd love to cross-dress a really 'malandi' character - Haha! But maybe after I finish my list.

Ryoga Hibiki
series: Ranma 1/2
photographer: Lester

wig: Cosmic Bytes
costume: Olive B.
plushie: Hatanaka
parasol: Miyuki
Traditional costume

Hiroomi Nase
series: Kyoukai no Kanata
photographer: Lester Castor

wig: Cosmic Bytes Cosplay Shop

When you are not cosplaying, what do you do?
Do you have a job?

Yes, I do. They don't know that I'm a cosplayer. I'm very 'suplado' and mysterious in the office. I also watch anime, manga or I spend time making my costume.

Steve: If you didn't cosplay at all, what would your life be like?

Party every weekend!! JOKE. I'd probably be a workaholic but I would also be able to get some sleep over the weekend.

How is it like? Can you share some experiences?

They're not demanding at all. They take care of their talents. We'd cosplay in the middle of Quezon City Circle, we'd have shoots, taping, etc. We're never hungry.

Why cosplay?

Why not? I watch anime and cartoons. I'm a big fan so I guess this is how I show it. For fandom! Haha!

Who influenced motivated and inspired you to cosplay?

There are a lot! There's Kaname, aside his awesomeness, it's also because of his inspirational life story. He kept his feet on the ground and he never forgot where he came from. A true idol. Yaya Han, Reika, Jessica Nigri, Rikki Le Cotey, Holy Conrad & Jessica Merizan, because of their hardwork and creativity in making great costumes and for always reminding me that cosplay should be fun! Jin Joson is an exceptionally outstanding cosplayer. She is supportive to her fellow cosplayers and she inspire many young people in the community.



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**Advice to those who
want to follow your
footsteps:**

"Just be happy
and follow what
you want. Don't
listen to negative
comments and all
that. Be nice to
everyone."

Wardrobe: Authority Hoodie
Shoes: New Balance
Styling: Lester Castor



LOKAL'TAKU

By Ann

No Panic Cosplay.ph Manic

Cosplay may seem to be just a hobby to outsiders but it's actually much more than that. It's a reason for people with the same passion and interests to gather and share memories and knowledge about cosplay, animé, gaming, and comics. And so, organizing these rendezvous is one of the big responsibilities that Cosplay.ph have.

Cosplay.ph mainly offers an online resource of cosplay news, announcements and articles to keep the cosplayers updated and well-versed about guidelines and tips in cosplaying. This online community is also popular for its efficient implementation of rules and guidelines, and easy registration systems for the cosplay events it handles.

Because of its expertise in the business of events management, Cosplay.ph is behind the much-anticipated annual cosplay convention called Cosplay Mania. This event continues to cater cosplayers of different levels, both national and international since it first began in 2008. It features activities such as Cosplay Solo Showdown, Cosplay Team Battle, Costume Building Contest, Workshops, and Cosplay TORCH or Tournament of Champions. This year's Cosplay Mania is coming up on the 4th and 5th of October at the SMX Convention Center.

Another project that Cosplay.ph participated in is the production of The Cosplay Show together with Cosplay Channel in 2012. Hosted by Pablo Barran and Guy Singson, the web-based show is, as the title suggests, all about cosplay, from making costumes to meeting cosplayers. Furthermore, Cosplay.ph supports major cosplay events such as Philippine Cosplay Convention, and Cyberzone Cosplay Grand Prix. It also awards Cosplay Costumes of the Year, from Best Male, Female, and Child to Best Mecha/Monster and Crossdress. Just last May 31 and June 1, Cosplay.ph, in partnership with Stompworks Media Studios, produced NexCon Manila, a convention for science fiction and fantasy artists and enthusiasts.



One of the downright needs of cosplayers, photographers and congoers is security, which is why Cosplay.ph has made it a top priority to provide crowd control. Finding this convenience, along with the other enjoyable activities and guests, makes Cosplay.ph events always the worthwhile experience.

Cosplay.ph deserves two big thumbs-up for proving how working hard can equate to having a fun play.



OTAKUGOODIES

Yuan Ji



Series: Elegance (E2046 original)
Product: Pre-painted figure
Height: 20 cm Weight: 1.25 kg
Scale: 1/6
Price: US\$ 149.99

As a loyal servant to her Princess, Dip Mou, this foreigner has practiced Chinese Qing gong.

Yuan Ji's figure sits on a rooftop with the air on her face. Her clothes flow like silk around her arms and legs. The headress suggest a strong gust of wind making her look exceptionally elegant. Because she is a royal bodyguard, she wears an incredible amount of gold, all painted to give her an extra shine. They even added a gold pattern on her skirt. Her tube top, however is painted metallic in contrast to the matte finish everywhere else.

E2046 also put a good amount of effort on her base because it pairs up with another figure, Dip Mou, where you can put the two figures side by side to complete a specific scene.

Despite the Chinese inspired get up and name, Yuan Ji is partly a foreigner and the



makers made sure she looked the part so they gave her Western facial features.

Do not let looks decieve you. Yuan Ji is beautiful and graceful but also deadly.

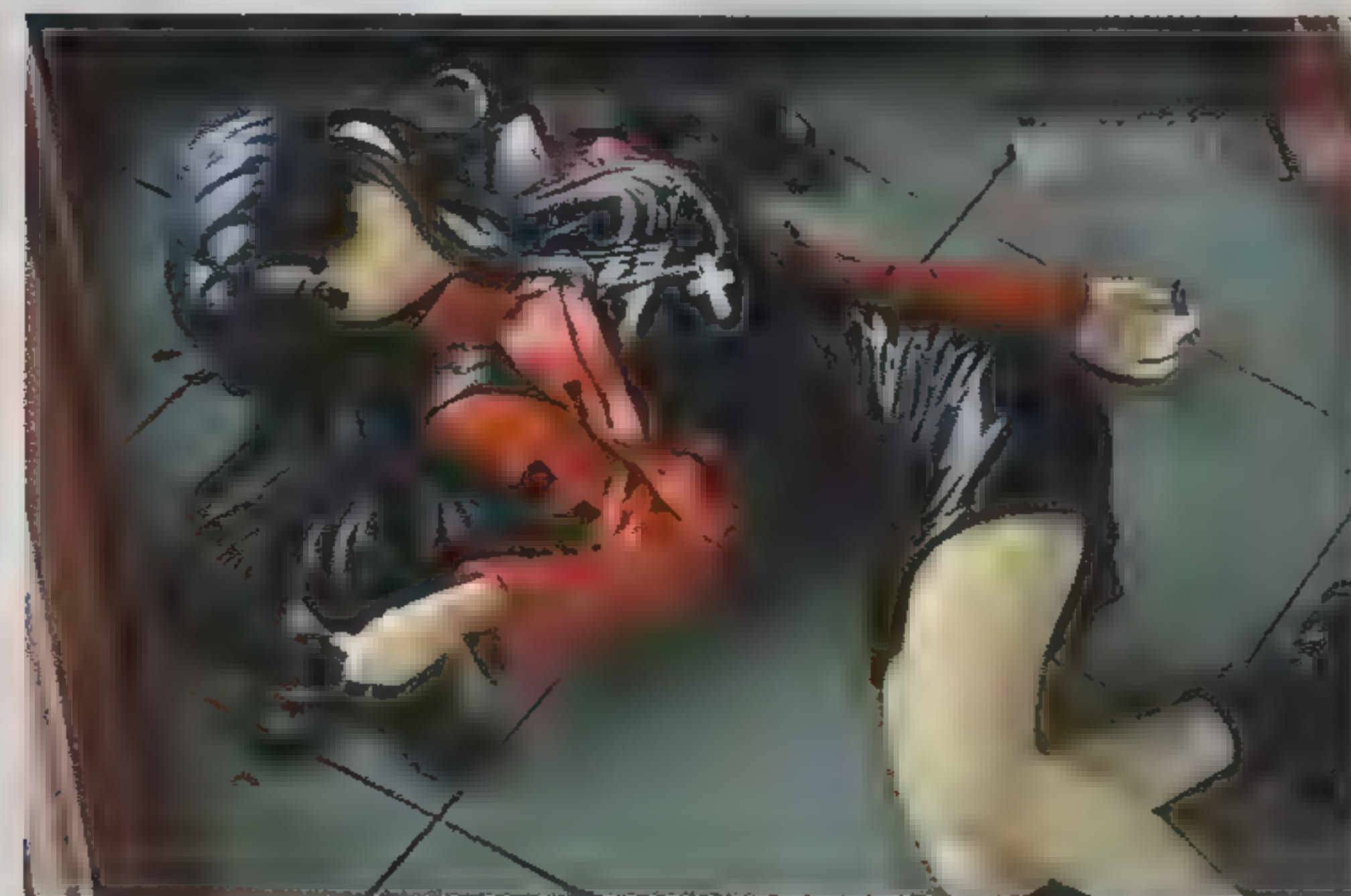
- 5/5 Sculpting - They even thought of pairing her with another figure!
- 4/5 Paint - They didn't forget to paint the shadows under her skirt. The gold completed the figure to a T.
- 5/5 Packaging - She comes in as a whole. That shouldn't be hard.
- 4/5 Value - Elegance comes with a price, doesn't it?



KATSURAGI MISATO

Series: Evangelion
Product: Pre-painted figure
Height: 22cm Weight: 1.74 kg
Scale: 1/7
Price: US\$ 153.59

Oh gosh, this brings back memories. Katsuragi Misato is a character from Neon Genesis Evangelion. Figures are usually erect but this one has her lying on a tiled floor with very detailed cracks and weathering. Her clothes are shiny and polished making her pop out of the frame. The folds on her dress and the sole of her boots are beautifully detailed. Her hair, jacket and shoelace are made



to look like she is still in motion. E2046's attention to detail is impressive! Even the patches and linings on her jacket have been thoughtfully painted. The string used for her necklace is an actual string which gives some sense of realism.

Ultimately, we are fawning over the figure. They followed the actual figure of the character (slim and long) which is great. In addition to this, the maker, Gathering, has added a stand so that it sits nicely on your wall. Making it look like you're standing looking down at her on the floor!

- 5/5 **Sculpting** - Much details. Very wow.
- 5/5 **Paint** - They made her shine despite the pose depicting a very tragic scene.
- 4/5 **Packaging** - A big box for a small figure seems a bit unnecessary.
- 3/5 **Value** - For a flat figure? It's way too high. But if you take note of how much Evangelion means to you, it might be a good haul.

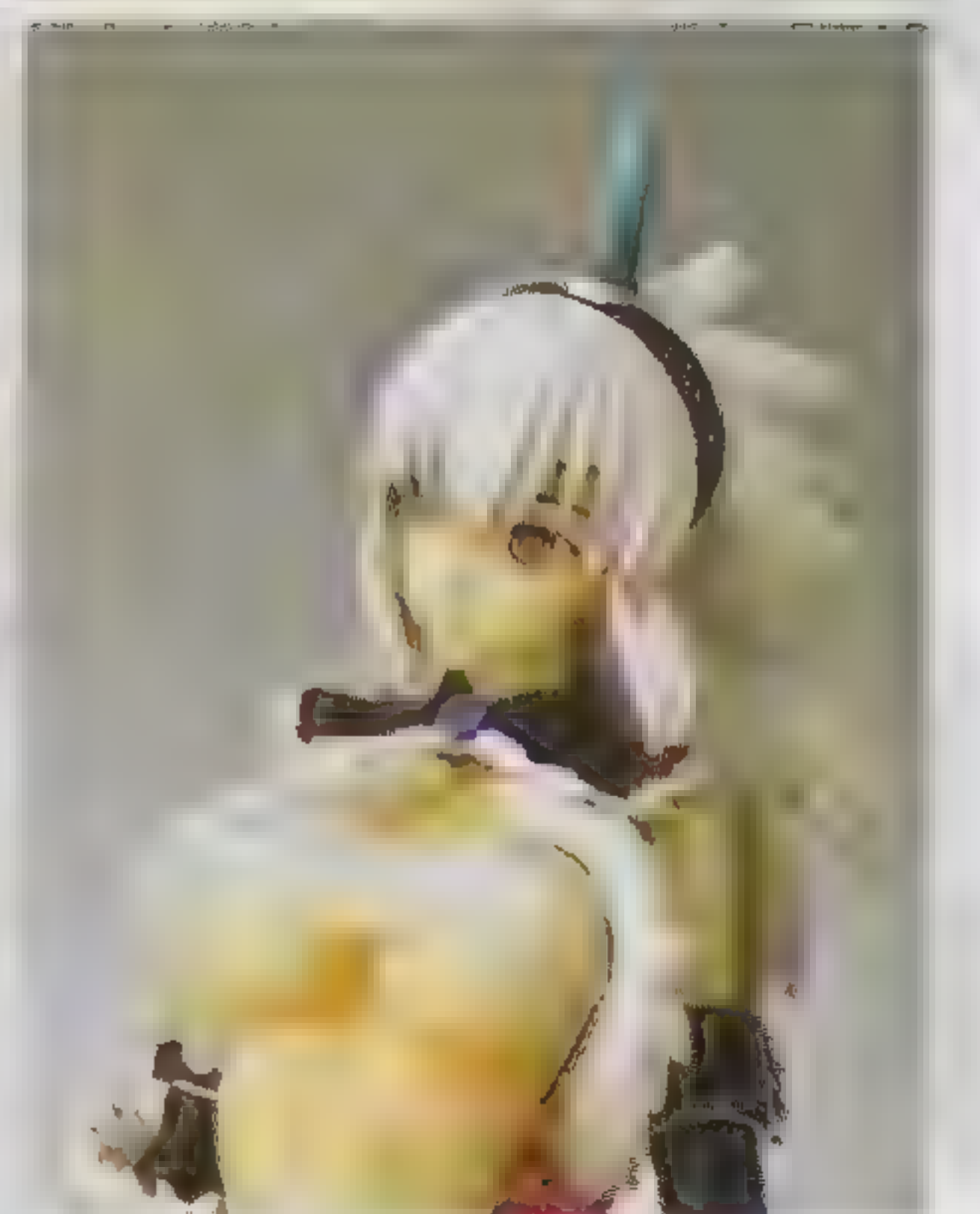
KIRIN

Series: Monster Hunter
Product: Pre-painted figure
Height: 29 cm Weight: 1.52 kg
Scale: 1/8
Price: US\$ 149.24

Kirin Armor is the strongest obtainable armor in the game Monster Hunter. Coming from the unicorn, Kirin, she is a sight to behold.

The paint job is amazing. The cloth covering her breasts really looks transparent and her armor has little hexagons. Her hair and furs are soft to the eyes as if they were real. Her body shows off several muscles and just enough bones making her extra sexy.

Her face and expression, however



does not match her character. Rather than looking fierce and ready for battle, she has a placid aura around her. She is also standing on a somewhat boring display base. Our favorite piece would be that heart pouch at the back. Albeit it lacked more color, they got all of the details and it's good enough for us.

- 5/5 **Sculpting** - Those little hexagons, belts and hair makes us want to stroke it.
- 4/5 **Paint** - Small errors here and there but ultimately, they aced the gradient effect on the fur, hair and skin.
- 5/5 **Packaging** - Assembling only 4 pieces wasn't that hard.
- 4/5 **Value** - All the effort was placed on this figure. It deserves to be pricey.



HOOKED BOOK



ORIGAMI ANIMAL SCULPTURE

Those cute cuddly cats, loyal and fluffy dogs, graceful and pretty butterflies are nature's gift. Now, you can create them... in paper!

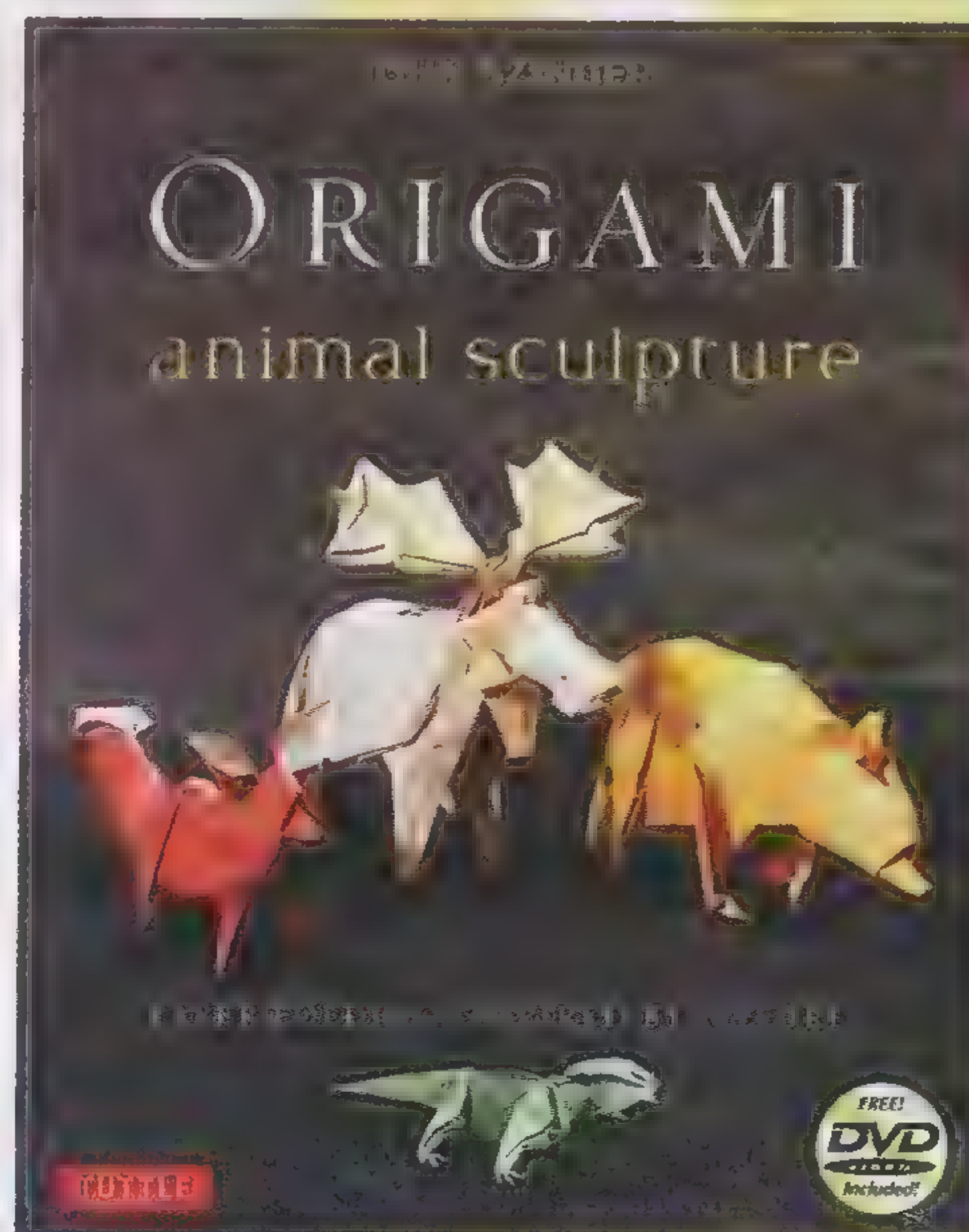
John Szinger is an origami artist, engineer, designer, software developer and musician. In his book, *Origami Animal Sculpture*, he challenges you with new innovations in the ancient art of origami. He brings you a refreshing take on the endlessly fascinating field of animal paper folding.

The book gives you detailed and full colored how-to instructions to 22 intermediate-to-advanced modes of unusual and exotic animals and related objects. Every animal is given a description; it also gives you a tip on what paper, size and color to use to get a desirable outcome.

Lifelike and expressive, these amazing origami artworks incorporate aspects of sculpture, mathematics and creativity. You may know how to fold a frog and a shrimp but here you'll learn to make the following:

Giant Squid, Cuttlefish, Narwhal,
Octopus, American Turkey,
Five-Banded Armadillo.

With a video to guide you, it whold be a walk in the park. Be inspired by nature.



*Para sa karagdagang sustansiya,
magandang kalusugan
at masiglang pangangatawan*



- ☒ May Taurine
- ☒ May Lysine
- ☒ May Zinc
- ☒ May Vitamin C
- ☒ May Vitamin B Complex
- ☒ May CHLORELLA GROWTH FACTOR



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MAY KAYANG ABUTIN

Available at all leading drugstores nationwide



GOLDSHINE
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OA PRIZES

LEGEND
from E2046
1/6 figure
painting and assembly required

Highly detailed figure from Gathering. Paint your own figure! Copy the given design or create your own!

code:

LEGENDE2046

Crystal



3 CRYSTAL LENS
from Eye Candy Shop
including lens case

15mm Garnet Black
14.2 Citrine Light-gray
14.2 Aquamarine Green

codes:

**CRYSTALGARNET
CRYSTALCITRINE
CRYSTALAQUA**



3
WOODEN KATANA
from The Sword Master

Wood blade and rubber sheath.
Very light and easy to handle.
Only from the Master.

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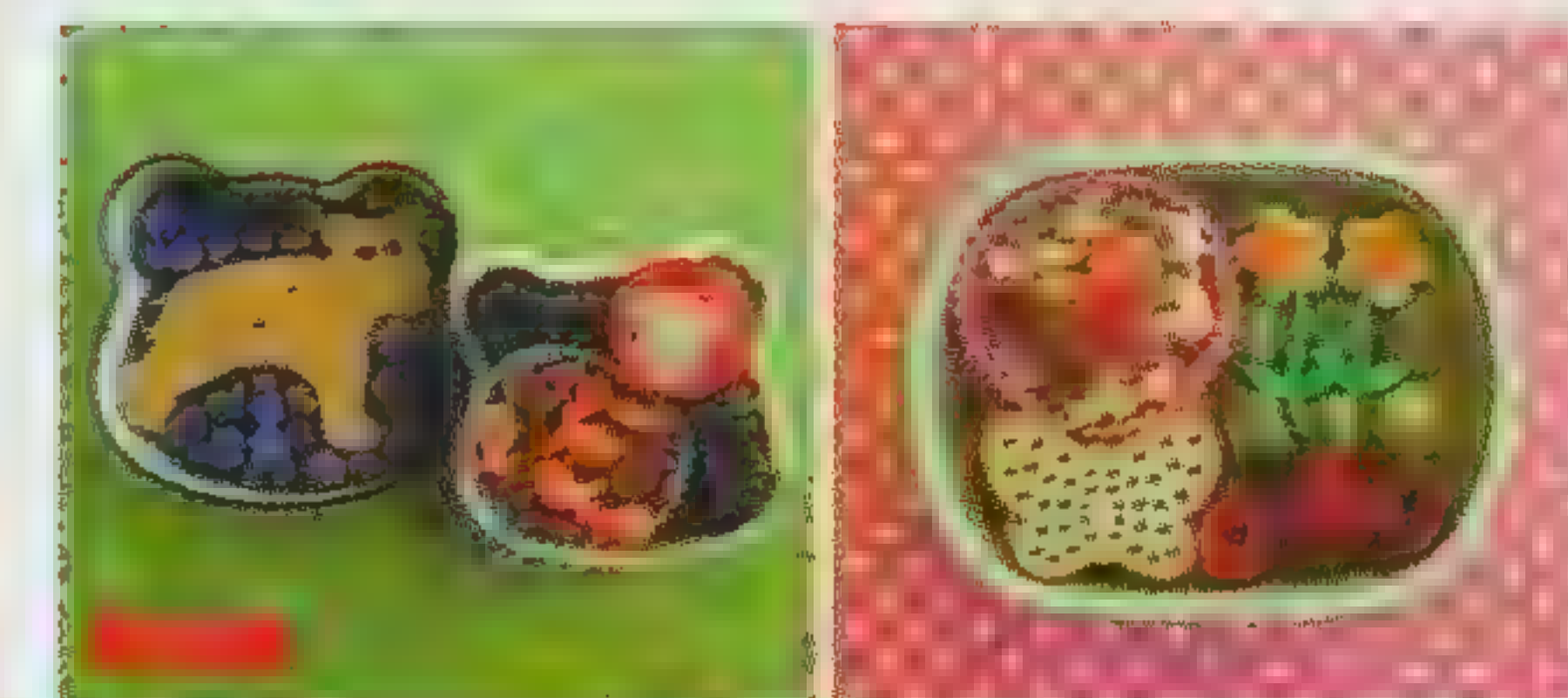
KATANA MASTER

3 EVERYDAY BENTO
from Tuttle Publishing

50 so cute and yummy bento
designs to make for yourself and
your special someone!

code:

BENTOTUTTLE



3 THE MOE MANIFESTO
by Tuttle Publishing

What is moe, really? All is explained
in this very more book!

code:

MOETUTTLE

details and instructions
on the next page >





INSTRUCTIONS

There are 13 prizes to be won:

- 1 Legend figure
- 3 Crystal lenses
- 3 Katana props
- 3 copies of Everyday Bento
- 3 copies of The Moe Manifesto

There are descriptions on page 62-63

E-MAIL us to win:
subject: <PROMOCODE>
I want this prize because <your answer>
<NAME>
<CONTACT NUMBER>
<ADDRESS>
to promo.otakuasia@gmail.com
until September 13

We will only be accepting entries that follow the format.
 Good luck!

thank you to E2046, Eye Candy Shop, The Sword Master and Tuttle Publishing



CHARACTER BIO

written by Philip

DANBO

the cardboard robot.

You have probably seen a cardboard box robot in the Internet. He has boxes as his arms, legs, body and head. For a face, he has two eye holes and a triangle mouth.

He is Danbo, the very popular cardboard robot.



About:

The story of Danbo started on Azuma's manga, Yotsuba&!, where the main character Yotsuba Koiwai mistakes her friend, Miura Hayasaka who is wearing a cardboard costume for their science project, as a real robot. Yotsuba asks for the robot's name and Miura pretends to be a real robot and named herself "Danbo".

Name:
Danbo

Alternate names:
Danboard, Danboru, Danbooru

Origin:
Created by Japanese Artist Kiyohiko Azuma in his manga Yotsuba&!. He is first seen in Chapter 28 which was published in April 2006.

Traits:
Danbo is similar to Domo. He is seen as an icon of curiosity and innocence.

photos by Aaron Photography & knowyourmeme.com



Danbo became a very entertaining character that even people who haven't read the manga know him. Due to his popular influence, Revoltech started selling Danbo figures. Some versions have eyes that light up, brand names on his body (Pepsi, Amazon, Calbee and Tamiya) and detachable Miura head.

Danbo figures have become popular to collectors, photographers and children.

Danbo has also inspired some cosplayers. Read the ongoing manga or simply get your own Danbo figure!

Try to see Danbo's adorable photos and like or share it to your friends if you appreciate Danbo's cuteness.



COVER FEATURE

by Yami

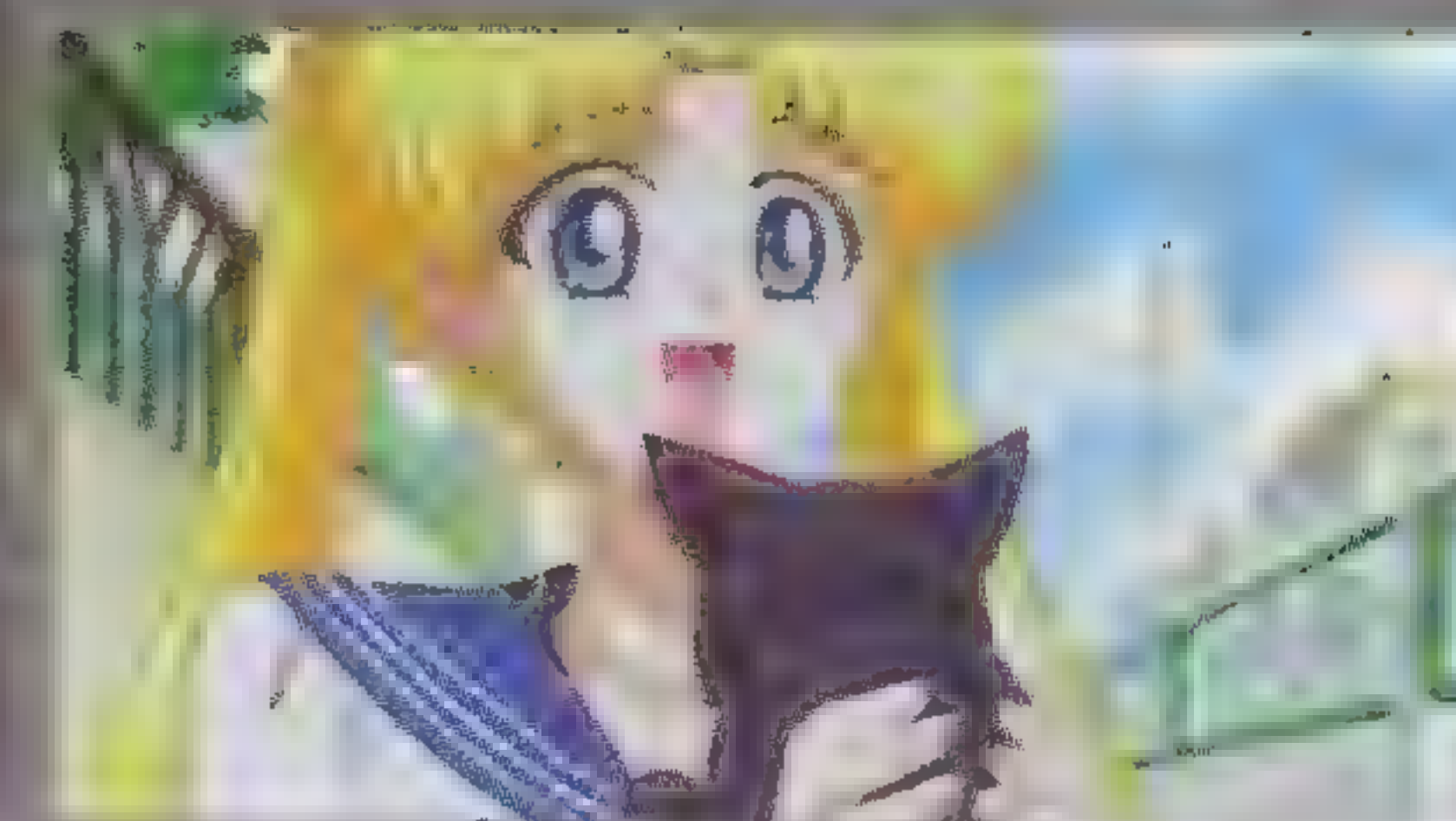
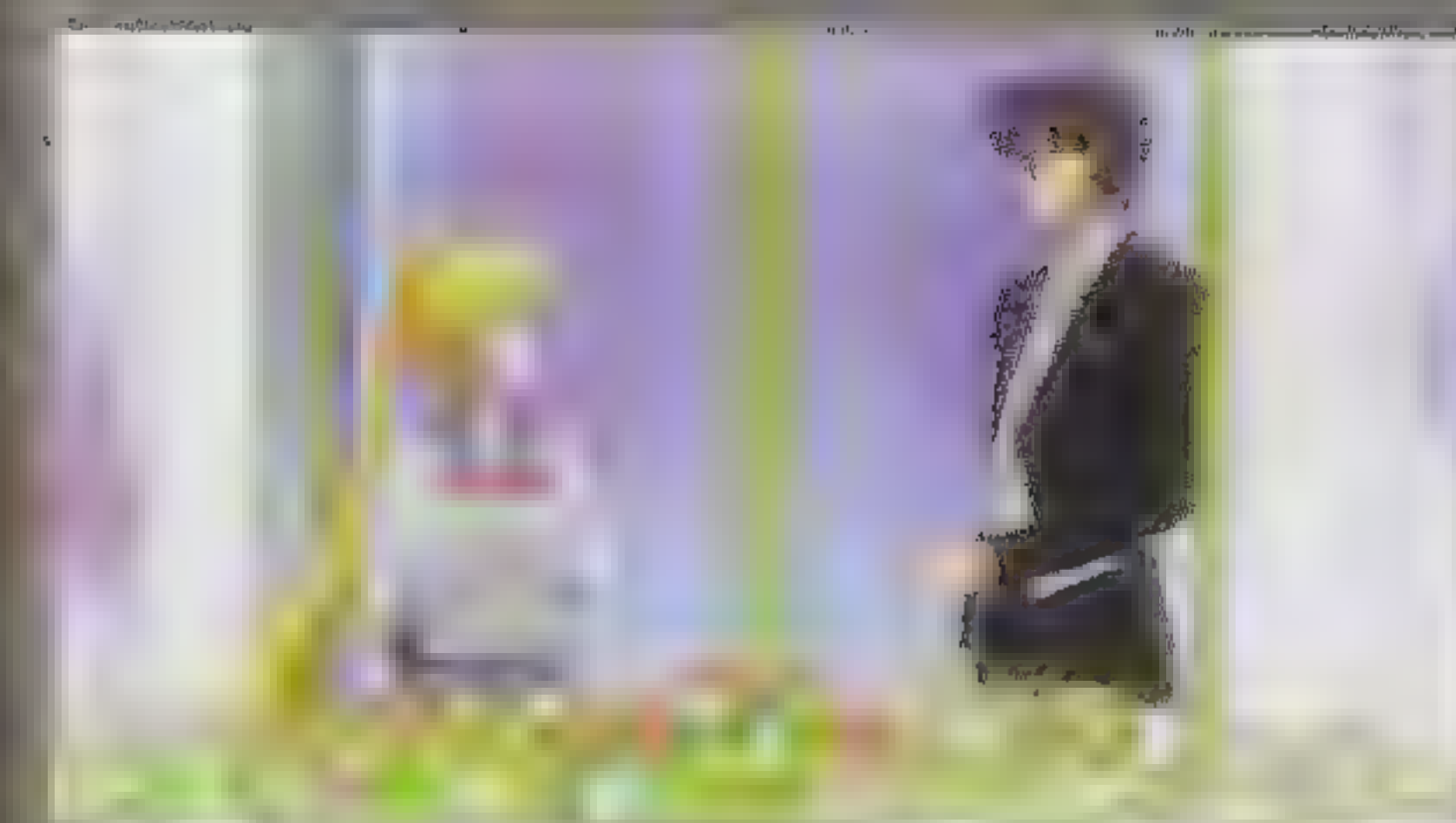
Our Sailor Heroes Return!



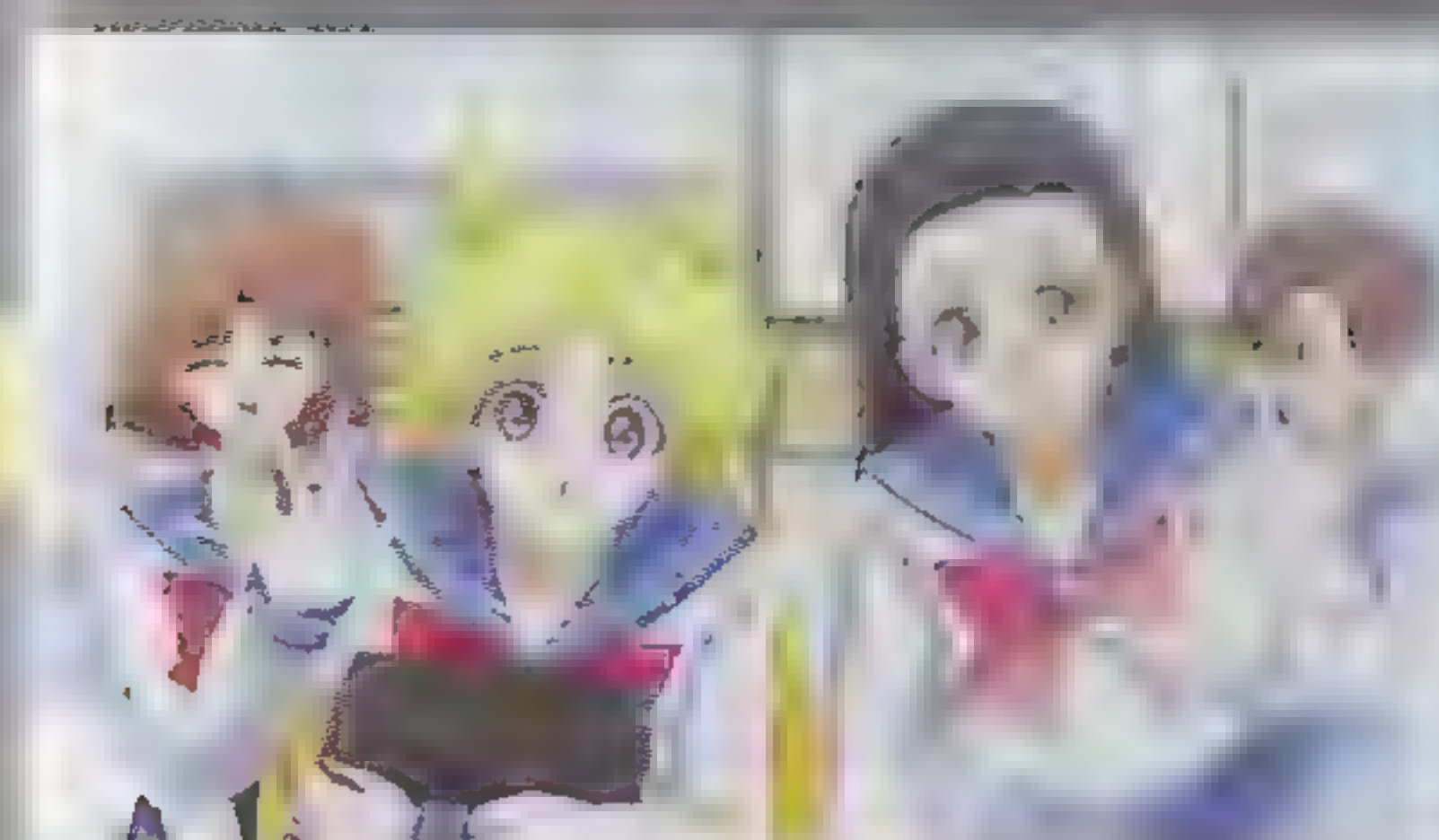
In the name of the moon, I will punish you! Sounds nostalgic right? The Sailor Moon Renaissance is here and will reign in our hearts again this 2014!

Clumsy and careless, that's how Usagi Tsukino, our heroine is described. One morning, while running late for school, she encounters a black cat that has a band-aid over its head. Usagi removes it and leaves the cat to catch her first class.

Unknown to her, the encounter with the cat will change her life. Night comes and the same cat arrives to her room and surprisingly begins to talk. The cat's name is Luna and she gives Usagi a brooch as a gift which she immediately accepts. She is able to hear the voice of her friend, Naru Osaka, calling for help. Usagi transforms into Sailor Moon by saying the incantation words: "Moon prism power make up!" She defeats the enemy using her attacks: "Supersonic Waves" and "Moon Tiara Dust Action". Usagi must then find the other Sailor warriors who will help her in defeating Queen Beryl's minions and finding the legendary visionary crystal before anyone else.



美少女戦士 セーラームーン Crystal



Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Crystal is an anime television series written by Yuji Kobayashi and directed by Munehisa Sakai. The new series will not remake the original anime but instead, it will follow the manga plot. It was aired on July 5, 2014 under NicoNico website. The series is subtitled into 12 languages. These are: Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Melayu, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, and Turkish.

It was also announced that the series will have a total of 26 episodes, having a total run time of 30 minutes per episode. This will be the seventh installation of the anime series Sailor Moon. The opening and ending themes of the series were performed by Momoiro Clover Z. The opening theme is entitled "Moon Pride" and the ending theme is entitled "Gekko (Moon Rainbow)".

Characters

Usagi Tsukino / Sailor Moon

Voiced by: Kotono Mitsuishi

The Heroine of the Series. Usagi is a 14 year old girl who is very clumsy and a crybaby. She was chosen by Luna as one of the Sailor warriors: Sailor Moon, the Soldier of Love and Justice. At first, she didn't want to fight but as time goes by, she eventually liked being one of the sailor guardians that fights the forces of evil.

Supersonic Waves, Moon Tiara Dust Action and Moon Tiara Stardust

Transformation Incantation: Moon Prism Power Make Up!



Minako Aino / Sailor Venus

Minako is a 14 year old girl who dreams of becoming a singer and dancer. She is the third Sailor Soldier: Sailor Venus, the soldier of love and beauty.

Transformation Incantation: Venus Power Make Up!

Rei Hino / Sailor Mars

Voiced by: Rina Satou

Rei is a 14 year old elegant girl. She is a very serious person and she's also a Shinto priestess. As a priestess, she can nullify evil by using her special Shinto scrolls. She can also use it even without transforming into a Sailor Soldier. She is the third Sailor Soldier: Sailor Mars, the soldier of fire and passion.

Transformation Incantation: Akuryo Taisan

Mars Power Make Up!



Makoto Kino / Sailor Jupiter

Voiced by: Aki Koshimizu

Makoto is a 14 year old tomboy who is rumored of getting kicked out of her previous school due to her unusual strength abilities for a girl. She is also quite tall for her age. She dreams of getting married early and having a cake and flower shop. She is the fourth Sailor Soldier: Sailor Jupiter, the soldier of Thunder and Strength.

Supreme dragon

Ami Mizuno / Sailor Mercury

Voiced by: Hisako Kano

Ami is a 14 year old girl that is quiet and a bookworm. It is rumored that she has an IQ of 200. She dreams of becoming a doctor one day. She is the second Sailor Soldier: Sailor Mercury, the soldier of water and Wisdom.

tactic: Sabao Spray

Transformation Incantation: Mercury Power Make Up!

Transformation Incantation: Jupiter Power Make Up!

Release

This reboot is an example of delays and teasers. It was first announced last July 6, 2012, during the 20th Anniversary event of Sailor Moon that a new Sailor Moon anime will be released on Summer 2013. A few other announcements were made but the end result was even further delays. This made the fans, particularly 90's children who grew up watching Sailor Moon on local TV, very anxious and hyper. Before the release, several "leaks" were made on the internet. First the title, Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Crystal then the official poster. Finally the key visual and synopsis along with the credits was released on January 9, 2014. On that day, they also made the final announcement that the anime will start streaming around July 2014.

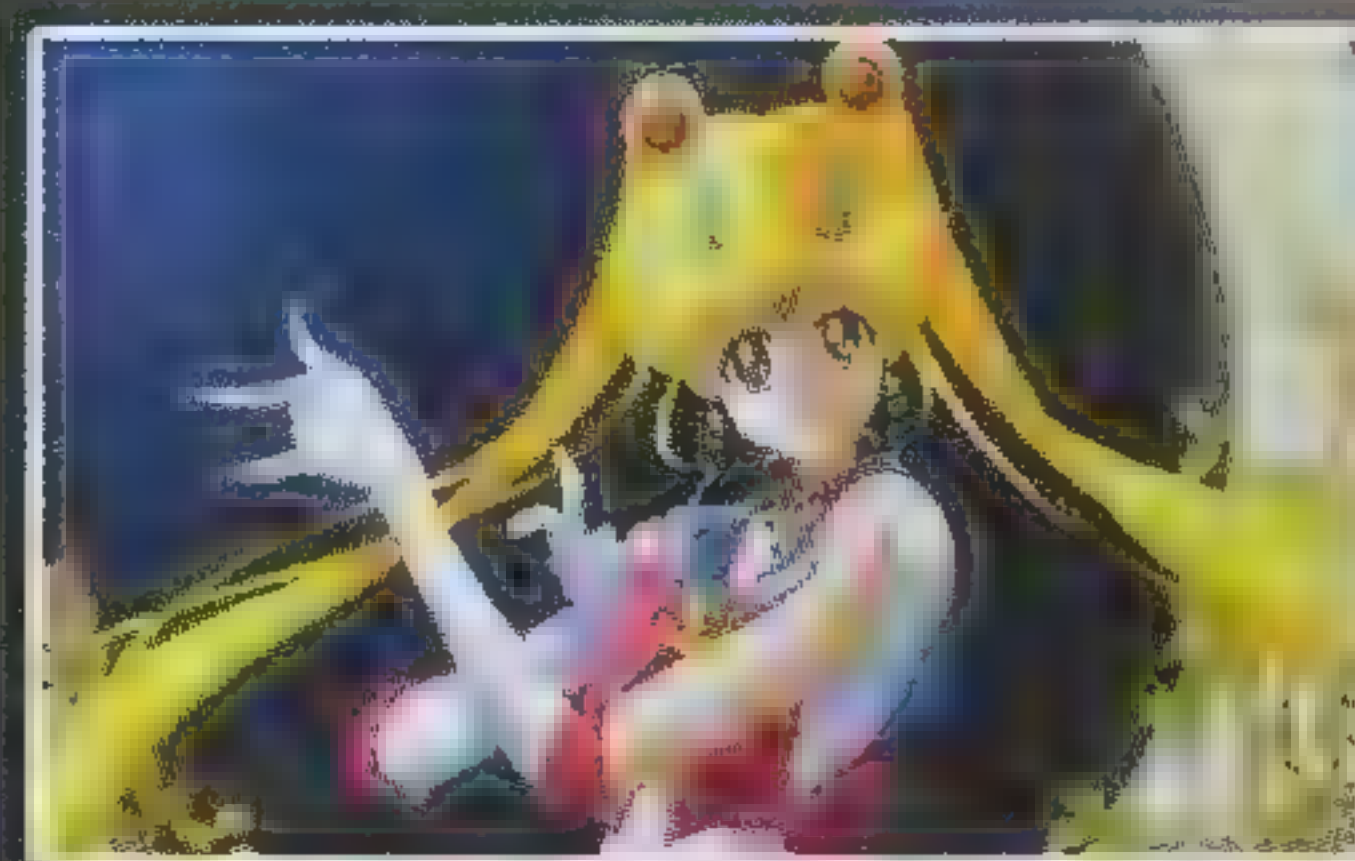
During the wait, several artists posted their versions of a 'rebooted Sailor Moon' and soon it was trending. When the official art was finally released, there were comments on how it looks far from the original manga art. People also noticed the long limbs and fluffier hair.

Two days after the release, NicoNico reported to have over 1 million viewers and approximately 250,000 comments. Looks like 90's kids are coming out of their office hole to take a trip down memory lane.

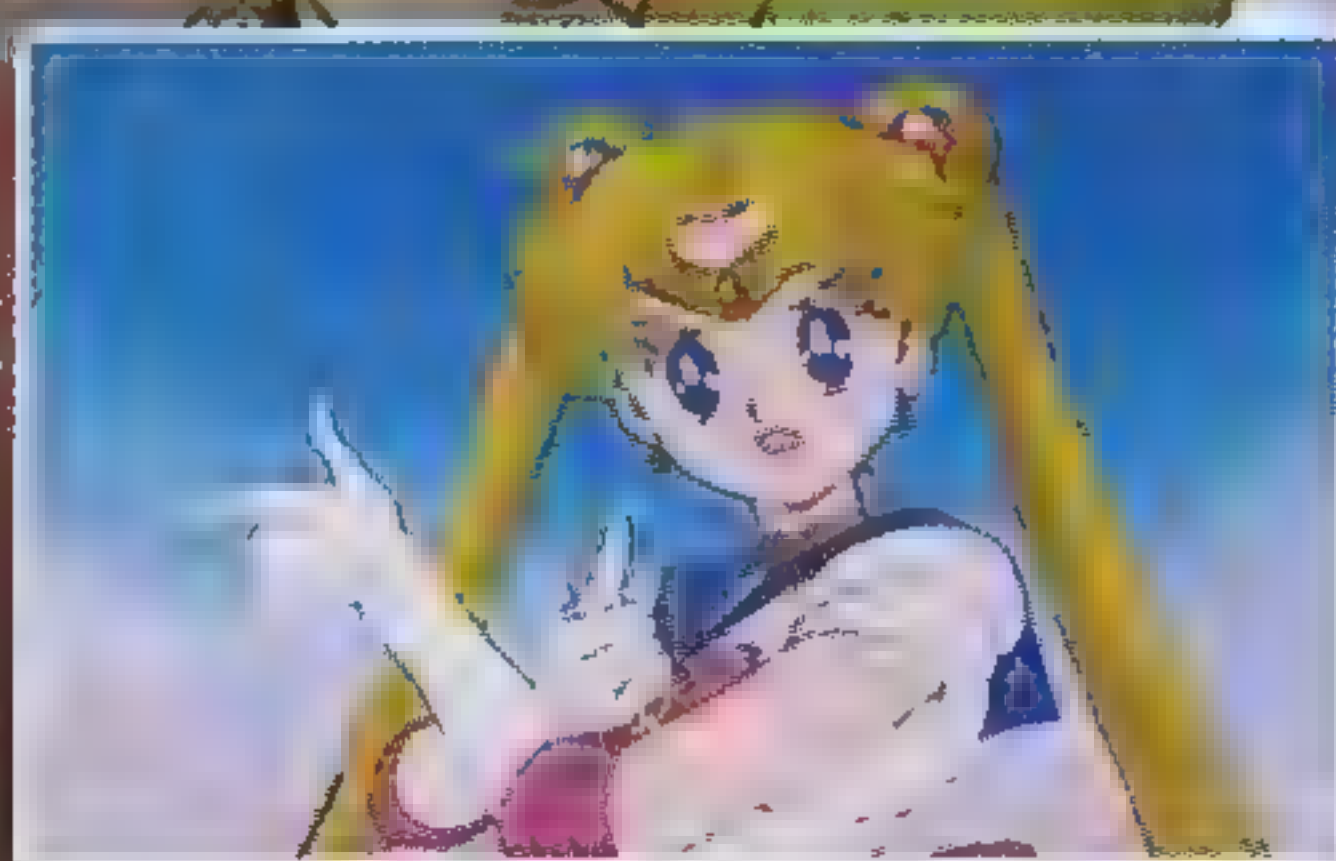
Animation

Comparing from the original series, the animation and CG effects are definitely better thanks to Toei. It did not come out as a rehash at all because you can notice the difference they've made to come more closely to the manga series by Naoko Takeuchi. 3D animation in anime is not common but it is slowly being incorporated just like in the anime, Blade and Soul. Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Crystal made the transformation sequence of Sailor Moon and some parts of the series in 3D.

With better technology and new skills to use, there is no doubt that this reboot is better in terms of visuals.



2014 series

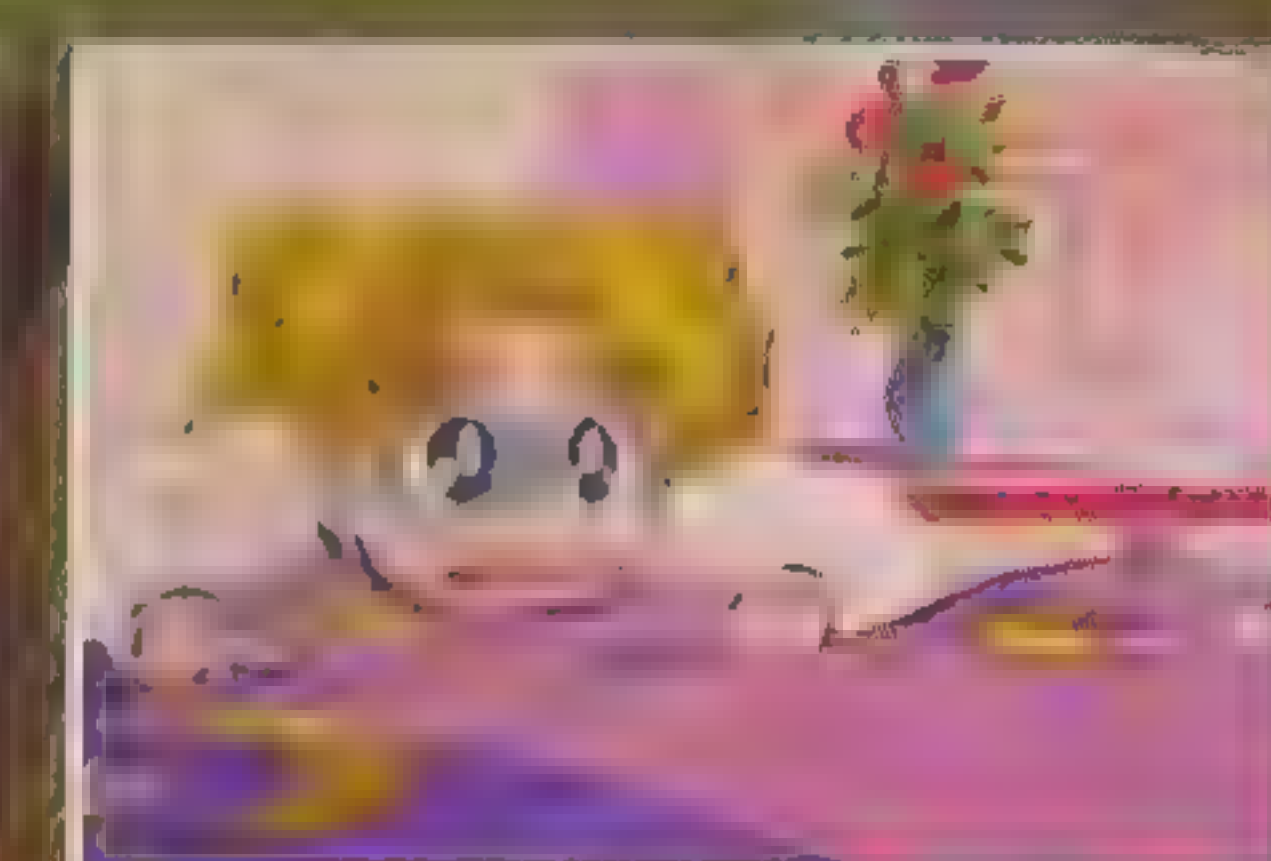
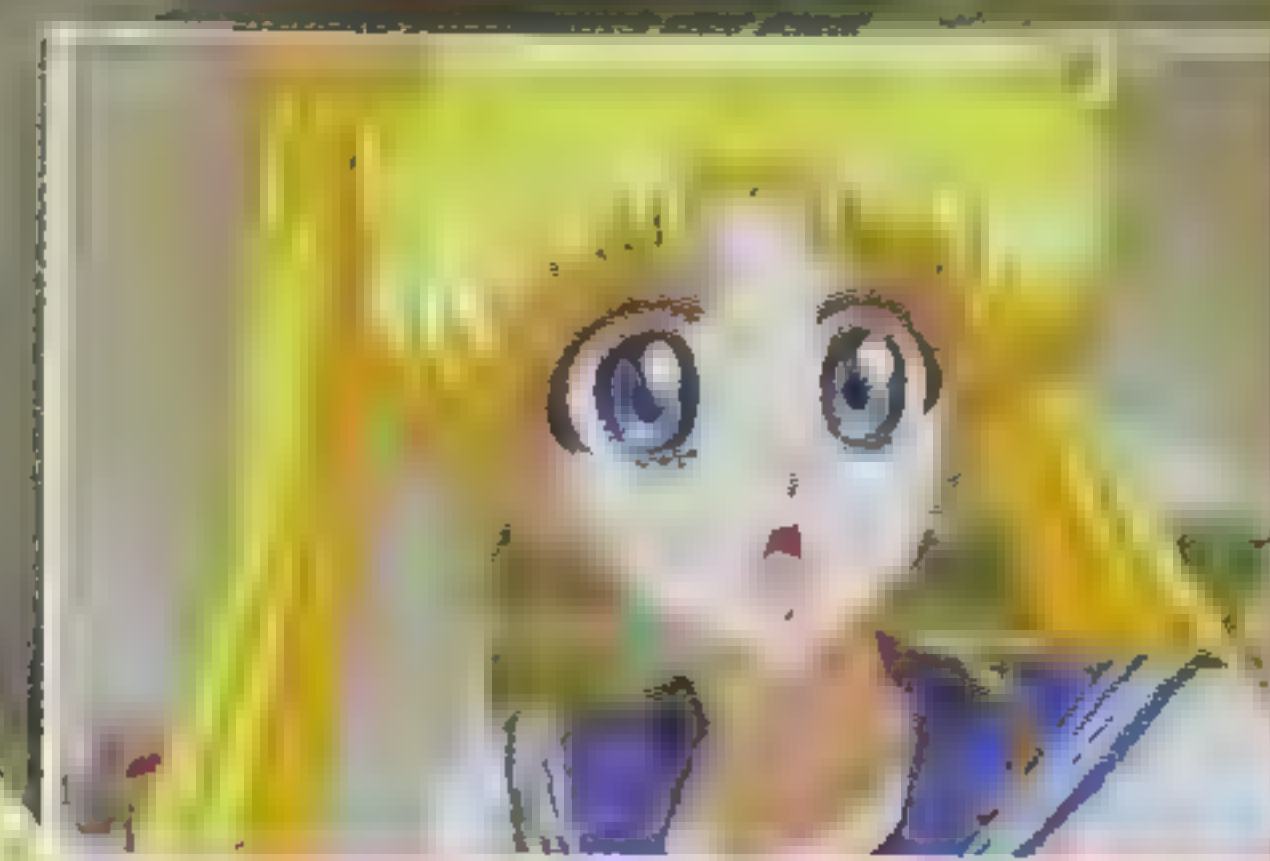


1992 series

Art

One of the first things that we noticed in the anime was the expressions or the lack thereof. Compared to the rubber-faced and comical faces that Usagi (and every other character) used to have, the reboot had her vacantly staring. When her brother called her 'Dumb Bunny', Usagi only closed one eye and shouted.

There was also the thing about long limbs. The body structure was similar to Clamp's long features.



Music

Same song; Moonlight Dengetsu was used in the opening. The original version was performed by DALI and Moon Lips while the new series opening was performed by Momoiro Clover Z. Comparing with the original one, the new version of the song was a bit faster in tune and the weight was much lighter.

A new ending song is introduced for the new series. The ending of the original series was "Heart Moving" by Takamatsu Misae. The ending of the new series is also performed by Momoiro Clover Z entitled "Moon Rainbow". Both ending themes have slow tunes and both of them makes you relax and calm while listening to it.

Let's catch again Sailor Moon and her fellow Sailor Warriors in defeating the forces of evil and their quest in finding the Legendary Illusionary Crystal.



MOVIE REEL



MISSING KINGS

written by mikelle



Following the fight between four of the Kings: Mikoto Suoh of HOMRA (Red Clan), Reisi Munakata of Scepter 4 (Blue Clan), Adolf Weismann of Silver Clan, and the Colorless King; Neko and Yatogami Kuroh have decided to search for their King, Isana Yashiro (Adolf K. Weismann). Believing in the power and words of their King, the two decided to search for Shiro.

K: Missing Kings mainly focuses on the story that follows after the 13-episode anime series, **K**. The movie is produced by GoHands and GoRA, released on July 12, 2014 in Japan, so make sure that you watch the series first before watching the movie!

Since this movie is produced by the same production studio from the anime series, you can bet that we are all going to experience a really awesome and splendid animation in this movie. They proved to the series that they can provide the viewers with a consistent and high quality show. You will definitely be glad to know as well that the movie will not be losing its touch when it comes to the action aspect. The fight scenes are more than what you would expect from an original anime. With the continuous flow of action from the battles, you will be excited with every clash of the characters.

Have you heard of the literary phrase, "A sword of Damocles hangs over somebody's head"? This was actually based on the story of Damocles who has a sword hanging on a strand of hair over his head while he is eating. Speaking in literary terms, the phrase actually means that the person who has the sword of Damocles hanging above his head is in impending danger.

So what is the relation of this trivia to this anime?

There are seven Kings in this story, each representing a Clan. In the anime **K**, the Sword of Damocles is actually used to represent the power of a King. The Sword would be hovering over their heads every time they use their powers. For each King, the design of the Sword would differ and depending on which King of a clan, the colour that surrounds the Sword would also be different. So far, the original anime series have only introduced some of the Kings and it seems that we might just learn who or where the other Kings are now.

K is known for being an eye-candy for both female and male fans with its good looking characters. Other than that there is also the action and flawless screenplay of this movie.

Another thing to watch out for in this movie is the introduction of new characters like Mishakuji Yukari. He was also a student of Ichigen Miwa, who used to be a King for the Colorless Clan that Kuroh previously serves. As a senior to Kuroh, Yukari also happens to be an accomplished swordsman. Based on the promotional video of the movie, he and Kuroh will have a swordfight.

From the high quality animation, amazing fight scenes, and great portrayal of characters, this movie is a must-watch not only for the previous viewers of the series but also for those who still have not watched it.

With Kuroh and Neko searching for Shiro, the movie **K: Missing Kings** is definitely screaming the words...

COME BACK!!!



MANGA

by Kawaii

Suki Kirai Suki

You will surely feel lucky to find a guy who is witty, smart and good looking. But will you still feel lucky when you find out that behind his perfect face is a devilish personality?



Inoue Azusa finds two handsome guys, one who has a good personality and another who doesn't. Saitou Masami is a popular high school student who has a horrible personality in contrast to his handsome face. On the other hand, Matsumoto Hikaru, the class president, is unaware of the attention he's getting from the girls even when called the Prince.



One day, Azusa punches Saitou for insulting her best friend. She tries to forget what happened but somehow she and Satou ended up stranded in school doing paper work. Saitou says that Azusa owes him for punching him in the face and in return, she should pay with her body. He holds her down while she struggles to break free until the class president sees them.

How does Hikaru react especially after he has confessed to her?

Suki Kirai Suki written and drawn by Tsukishima Haru is a shoujo manga serialized by Dessert (Kodansha). If you are familiar with Nakanmon and Watashitachi ni wa Kabe ga Aru, you should also check out this one. The art is light and perfect for a shoujo manga. The story is fast paced but also very emotional.

The manga is still ongoing so you'll just have to wait for the next chapters.

Love triangles are not rare in shoujo manga but the art and the lines of these two rivals will make you heart pound. While one seems to be forcing his way to her heart, the other is just playing around.

"If you want me to like you, don't fall for me for real."

What is this feeling?

HACHIMITSU NI HATSUKOI

by Yan



Do we really consider ourselves as childhood friends only or more?

Friends is one of the people you could always count on. They are always there for you, making you feel happy, comfortable and they accept who you are. What if one day you feel something's not right when you're near your friend. Your heart suddenly beats fast whenever you see, hear and remember him/her. What could this be?

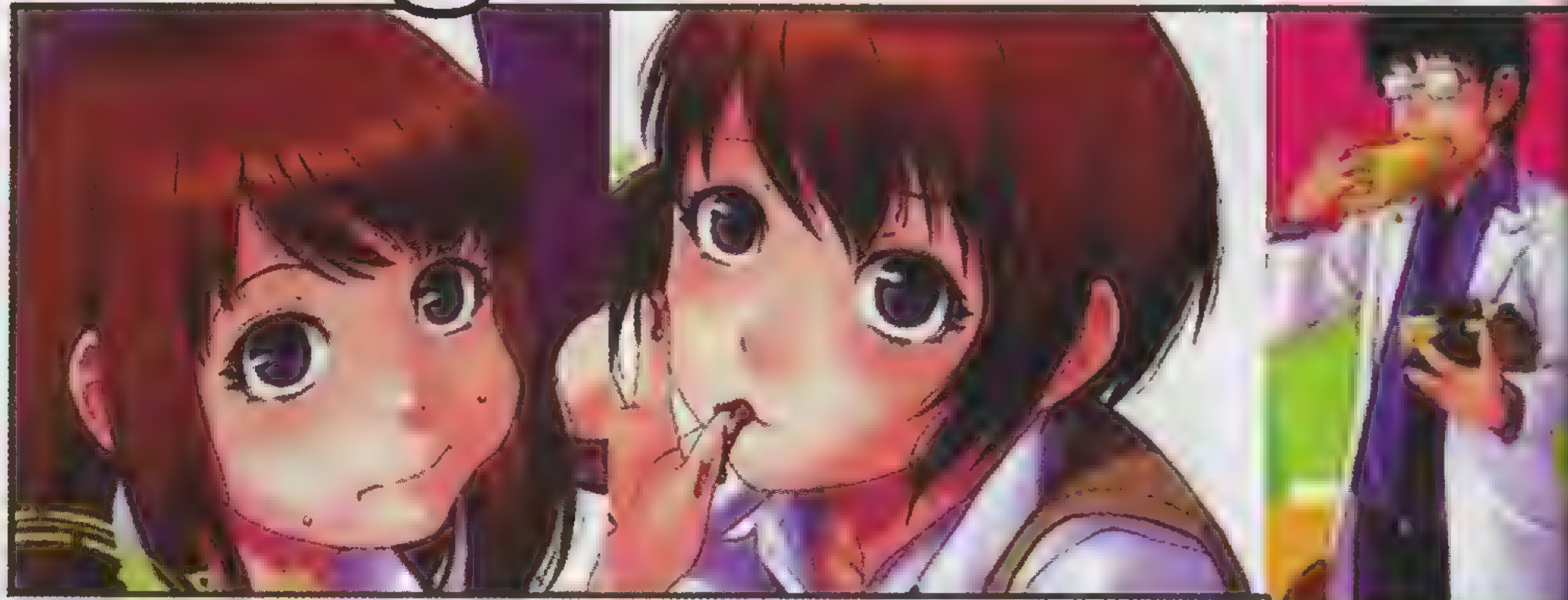
Koharu grew up alone, her parents weren't always around her due to their busy schedule at work and even on her birthdays. However, her childhood friend, Matsuki was always there for her. He always find a way to make Koharu happy and smile. They grew up really close and even if they entered high school, the two was still close. The two got often teased that their relationship could be more than just friends but the two just shrugged it and always say that they are only childhood friends. As time pass by, their hearts beats fast whenever they see each other, they get jealous whenever someone is near with each other. Will they realize that they have fallen in love with each other, with their childhood friend?

Hachimitsu ni Hatsukoi, also known as First Love Honey is a Japanese manga written by Minase Ai. It was published in the year 2012 and it was serialized by Sho-comi.



Another story about childhood friends that will make you feel giddy about their relationship. It's really exciting to find out how will they find out that they have feelings for each other; not only as friends but also as lovers. What will become of their relationship if they find out? Let's follow their story as they discover their feelings for each other on Hachimitsu ni Hatsukoi!

Uwagaki Overwriting Love By Reikisha



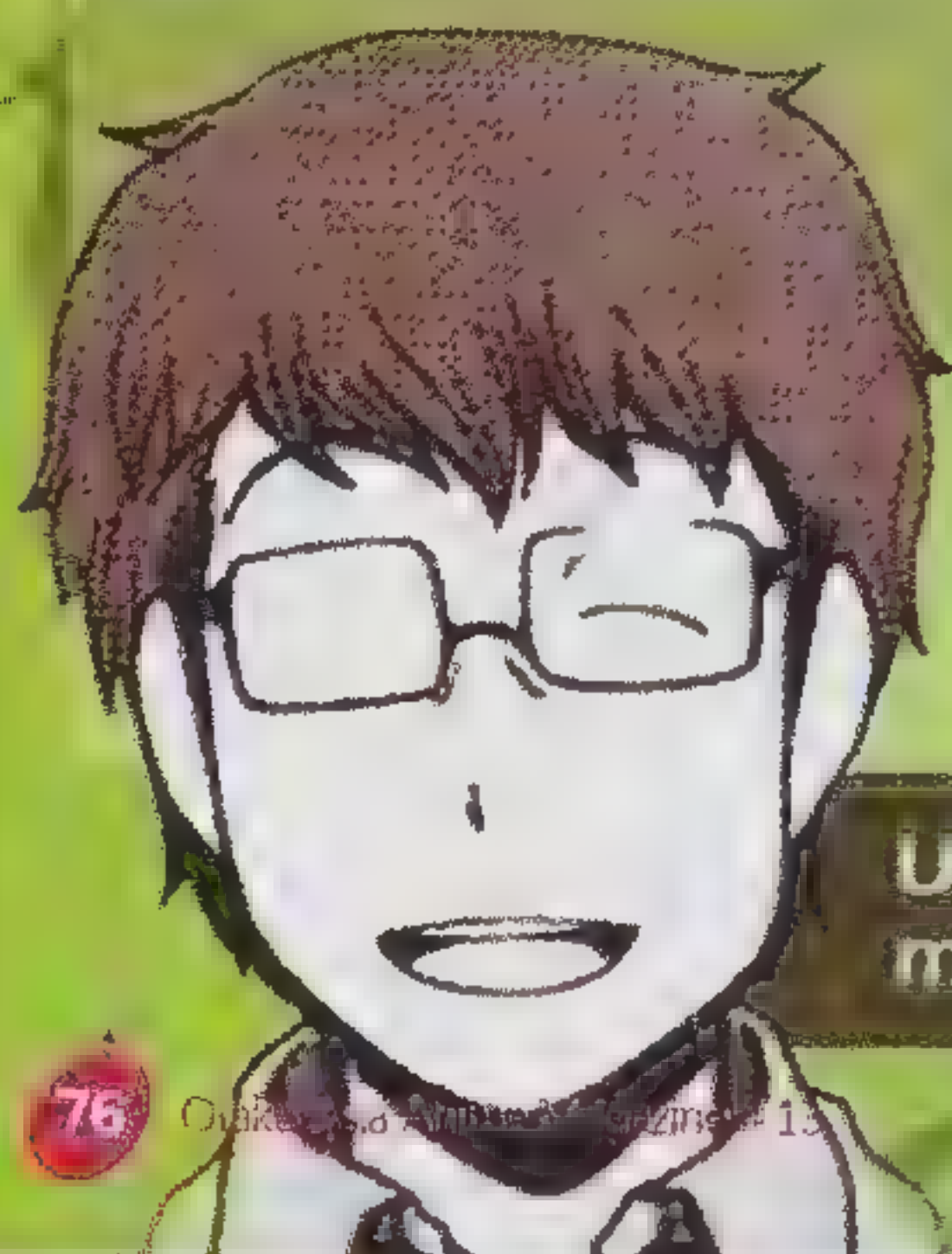
Chiaki Terui preemptively rejects her classmate Yoshio Ajikawa because it is obvious that he has a crush on her. Her rejection is because she is already dating someone from her part-time job. Their teacher, Mr. Yamada, overhears their conversation and suggests for them to participate in an experiment. This chemistry teacher "magically" duplicates Chiaki, removes the copy's memory of the original's boyfriend, and explains the objectives of the experiment:

- Yoshio will try to make the "Chiaki clone" fall for him.
- After a certain amount of time, the two will be combined back together.
- If Yoshio's or the current boyfriend's love is stronger than the other, then the memories of their relationship will be overwritten.

Given these conditions, both Chiaki and the copy (renamed Koaki) thinks that Yoshio has no chance in surpassing the original's feelings towards her boyfriend. But with each passing day, perhaps a small bud called "love" can start to bloom.

Uwagaki is Ryo Yasohachi's romantic sci-fi manga that was serialized in Fellows!. It has a total of 21 chapters from June 2009 to October 2013.

The series subverts the stories focused on a love-triangle between a couple and a guy with an unrequited feelings by introducing another character that has the same appearance and personality as the original except that she has no memories of the boyfriend. In most romance stories, love-triangle relationships tend to have moments that will hinder the main pair's affection for each other. However, none of those can be seen in Uwagaki.



The only sci-fi element in Uwagaki is the love experiment and Mr. Yamada himself. The rest is just a portrayal of realistic scenarios that may be similar to a romantic relationship of twins dating two different guys. Uwagaki manages to go straight to the point with the plot developments because of the lack of rivalry, awkward moments, and intention to destroy one's relationship - which is somewhat refreshing to see.

Uwagaki's ingenious premise, loveable characters, and sweet moments will surely leave you looking for more.

BATTLE FOR FUJIMURA'S LOVE Fujimura-kun Mates By Reikisha



We've seen many male protagonists stereotyped as either perverted or lense because of the girls becoming a part of their growing harem. There are also cases in which the main character is aware of his harem, but his built-in indecisiveness is the source of his troubles.

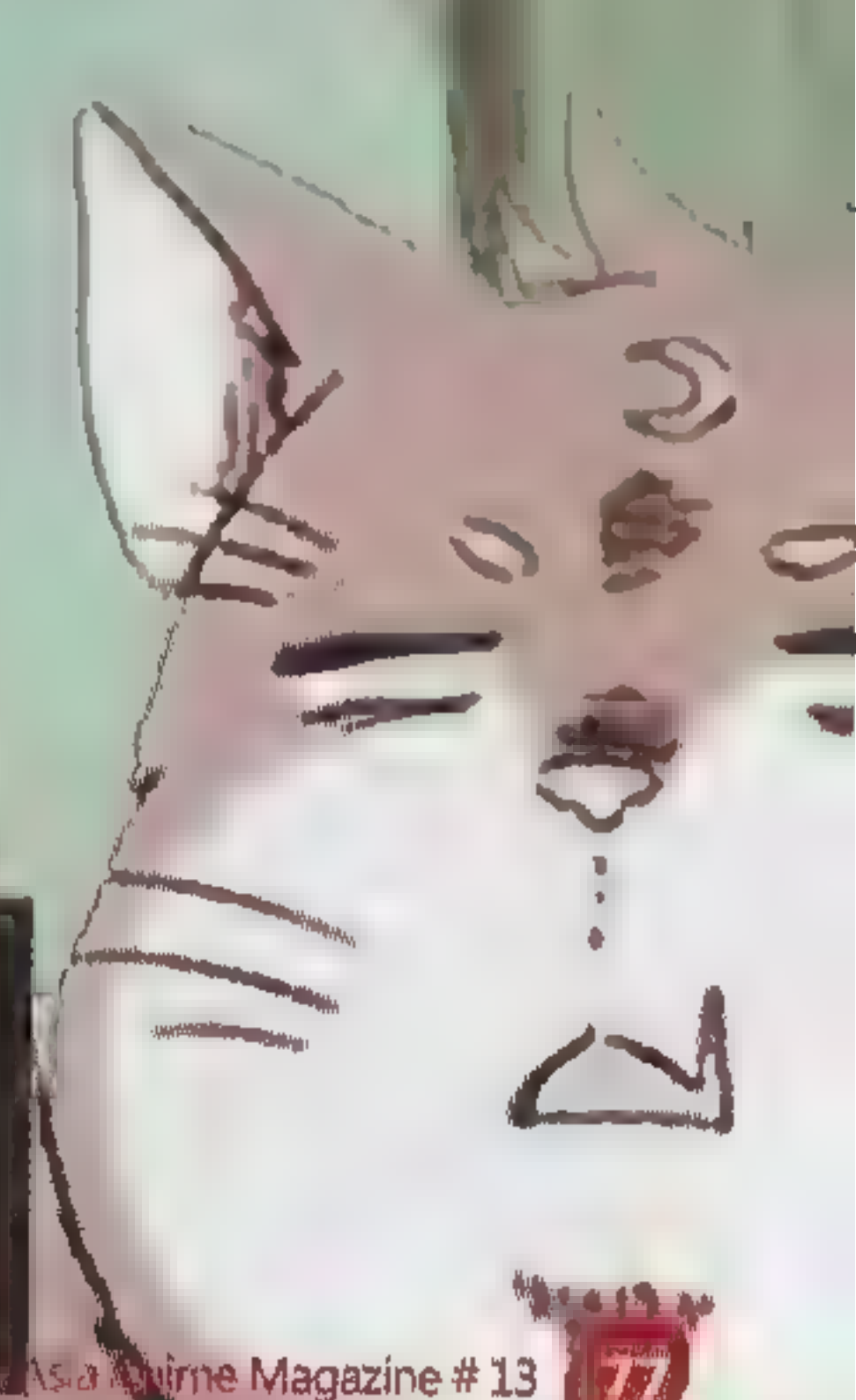
However, Haru Fujimura is nothing like these characters. Fujimura is a delinquent at his school and ever since his [violent?] encounter with Eriko Usami, who claims to be the class president in his class, he is feared by his classmates. [He is suspended for a while but when he comes back,] he discovers that everyone in school has a few loose screws; among them are girls who somehow fell madly in-love with him.

Selichi Shiki's Fujimura-kun Mates is a gag manga serialized in GanGan Online. It has a total of 8 manga volumes starting from its first chapter in 2006 to its 97th last 2013.

Even though Fujimura-kun Mates can also be classified as a romance manga, it barely has any romantic moments between Fujimura and his (unwanted) harem. But as a gag-manga, every page is full of tsukkomi-boke jokes [define tsukkomi-boke] that'll give you no time to catch your breath once you start laughing! And since this manga does not have a complete plot, every chapter just shows the rest of the cast messing around with Fujimura, making him retort to everything they throw at him.

All of the characters in Fujimura-kun Mates fall into an existing stereotype that we see in anime and manga today. What makes the series interesting, however, is that Haru Fujimura seems to be the only sane person in the cast, and that he doesn't show any signs of affection towards the girls. Also, fanservice is almost nonexistent here so if you've already seen too much fanservice in other anime and manga, here's your chance to have a break from that and just have a good laugh.

The amount of manzai-style [define manzai] witty remarks in Fujimura-kun Mates is so high that stopping yourself from laughing as you read is impossible. This manga is highly recommended for those who are looking for an excellent gag manga series to read, along with the likes of D-Fragments! and Danshi Koukousai no Nichijou.





CON-IN-FOCUS

by Kent

TOYCON 2014

IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER

The organizers consider it the biggest toy convention in the country. Rightly so.

Last June 20-21-22, The 13th Philippine Toys, Hobbies and Collectibles Convention 2014 celebrated Batman's 75th Anniversary, Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy, Rurouni Kenshin exhibit, World Cosplay Summit Philippine Finals and GI Joe 50th Anniversary. Toy collectors, hobbyists and cosplayers were all around SM Megamall's Megatrade Halls. Because of the extension of the Mega B and Mega D, there was more space for guests compared to the past events.

Reported to have more than 15,000 attendees, the event brought together comic and toy enthusiasts and otaku and cosplayers together.

Entrance

Halls 1 and 2 had three designated ticket booths and an information booth. Just by the design of the entrance, you could already appreciate Batman's 75 years of glory. Upon entering, first timers will be given assorted freebies. The ticket price stayed affordable (130 Php) and even gave senior citizen discount.

Concessionaires Area

The main entrance or Hall 2 leads you to the area where we find merchandise, displays, gaming areas and food. MaxiCollector and Toy Empire boasted life size figures of several well known identities like Darth Vader, Joker, Captain America and Jigsaw on a tricycle that was open for bidding. Other big retailers like GreatToys, Wasabi and Arigatoys offered a wide array of toys. Best part? Discounted prices. Better part? Last-day sales.



We also got to try the Oculus Rift! Artworks of comic book artist Alfredo P. Alcala was also up for display.

Since this is also the year that Rurouni Kenshin: Tokyo Inferno live action film will be released, the event had three movie costumes on display and a video loop of the trailers. We spotted Jin Joson donning her old Kenshin costume to promote the movie.

We were drawn to the vinyl figures of Eraserheads by Secret Fresh. There were cosplay booths like Cosmic Bytes and Vouge Royal Cosplay. Feeling cold? Head on to Authority Hoodie. We saw four 3D printers. Hungry? There were more food stalls this year too!

Standing at the far end of Hall 3 were giant custom made statues of comic book superheroes (and villains), a moving and beeping R2-D2 from Star Wars all made by skilled modelers and prop makers.

Sigh~ the hall was packed with awesomeness. But that's not all Toycon had to give!

Stage Area

The event would be incomplete without a big stage to hold performances, contests, panel discussions, bands and special guests.

Gotham Philippines/ Justice League Philippines discussed about the main highlight of the event which is the 75th anniversary of Batman. Other panel talks include FlipGeeks and ReImaru Files.

Trailers of Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno and Marvel's Guardians of the Universe were also shown on screen for the fans to watch and enjoy.

Local bands sang cover songs and original songs alike. We enjoyed Ashley Gosiengfiao's band Midnight Meetings as they rocked the halls. But the highlights were Itchy Worms, Sanctus and Evening Tea Time.

One of the most controversial stage performance was the night party on the first day of the event. UNO Magazine brought the Mocha Girls and some performed a lap dance. Don't know what that is? *i-Google mo yan*

The stage was also the venue for one of the biggest and most exciting cosplay competition.

Every year, Anime Alliance holds the World Cosplay Summit Philippine to choose the cosplayer to represent our country in WCS in Japan. Our article regarding this is on page 44-46 of this magazine.

Exhibitor's Hall

Beyond Hall 3, there is a smaller room that was filled with displays of various private collections from different toy groups and organizations.

At the center of it all was a miniature city all built from Lego and an installment by Miss Linda Teodosio who had collected Coca-Cola promotional merchandise, gifts, travel souvenirs. Complete with the Coca-Cola lamp, phone, wall clock, bottles, shirts and more, she says that it wasn't complete because there was more in her house.

The funniest display would be a naked ball jointed doll of Tony Stark surrounded by the protagonists of the anime, Attack on Titan. Custom-built toys were also spotted and a set of basketball player figures were busy playing a game. As for dolls, Chuckie and his wife were present. Along with baby Elsa, Anna and Kristoff.

Overall

Even if you're not into pop culture, you would be overwhelmed by the staggering amount of merchandise. You would find yourself bobbing your head to the music on stage and cheering for that cool costume.

Another ToyCon success.

The organizers, Vic Yap, Cholo Mallillin and Katherine Barrameda did a splendid job. They are now taking a short rest before bringing you another event at the end of this year.

Post-event reactions are very important. Not very long after the event, an online poll was taken regarding the change of venue. Toycon has always been in the Megatrade Halls. Since there had been requests, they sought the help of the people to choose: Megatrade Hall or SMX MoA?



The boys are back for their second season! On it's 2nd yr, the Iwatobi swim team are having trouble looking for new members. They have even asked Rin from other school to help them out.

Rin, on the other hand has been made captain of the Samezuka Swim Team. Then a new student transfers and it's Sousuke, Rin's childhood friend.

A few episodes have already been released and the one improvement we noticed was the colors. Unlike the first season Haruka's hair was dark blue and almost black in some scenes, This season, they made the colors brighter and his hair is now a better shade of blue. Also now, there are more eye close-ups, showing those bright and colorful eyes.

Other than muscles, the eye candy of

Free! Eternal Summer is water. From the perfect lighting underwater to the sound effects.

The characters have also grown up. Rin is less aggressive, Haruka has more speaking lines now and Rei starts to want to learn other strokes. Aii Nitori is also given more screentime as he is shown to be more hardworking than last season's overly dependent Aii.

Ultimately, we are enjoying this new season. Not only is this their last year as a team (Rin, Makoto and Haruka are 3rd years), this is also the last Free! anime they are going to release.

Watch the anime to see all these character development, muscles and friendships.



GAMER'S ARENA

SPECTRE CASE FILES

By Reikisha

MURDERED

SOUL SUSPECT

They say that murder cases are like mind-boggling puzzles created from victim's body. For detectives, solving the case is a way to avenge the dead and bring the perpetrator to justice. If ever there will be a case that an investigator will find difficult to solve, it would be his own murder.

Detective Ronan O'Connor is pursuing a notorious serial killer known as the "Bell Killer" in Salem, Massachusetts. Ronan and the Bell Killer fights each other in the building, but the killer's overwhelming strength effortlessly lasses him around until Ronan is thrown out of a four-story window. Afterwards, the Bell Killer finishes off Ronan by shooting him seven times in the torso using his own gun as the murder weapon.

Upon being revived as a ghost, Ronan meets his long dead wife Julia and tells him that he still has unfinished business to take care of before passing on. He then concludes that his "unfinished business" would be his own murder.

Murdered: Soul Suspect is Archlight Games and Square Enix's action-adventure stealth video game for the PC, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360 and Xbox One. With the exception of Japan releasing the game exclusively for PC and Xbox One, Soul Suspect had its multi-platform release in North America, Europe and Australia on different dates.

GAMEPLAY

In this game, you take control of detective Ronan O'Connor and investigate various places in the present-day Salem to uncover the mysteries related to his murder. As a spirit detective, Ronan is equipped with supernatural powers that will be useful in his investigation. Most of the time, players will spend their time exploring the crime scene and piece together the clues to reach a conclusion that will lead Ronan to the Bell Killer.

Given that Soul Suspect is no ordinary mystery-solving game, obstacles are bound to hinder the player from making progress in the case. Demons, for example, are the main enemies that must be avoided at all costs. To deal with demons, the player can sneak behind them and perform a stealth kill.

Murdered: Soul Suspect would definitely become a hit if it was a mystery-thriller film rather than a video game. But nevertheless, the game comes up with unique mechanics that will separate it from other games of the same genre. 80% of the game is all about searching for clues, 10% for trying to get past the demons blocking your way, and the remaining 10% is the whole story itself.

ROYAL INSURGENCE

Yggdra Union

WE'LL NEVER FIGHT ALONE~

The Kingdom of Fantasia is engulfed in the flames of war when the Bronquian Empire invades. After Castle Pallina fell into the Empire's hands, a lone princess named Yggdra Yuril Artwaltz flees to the south with the family sword in hand. Yggdra engages in battle with her pursuers, Aegina, the Valkyrie of the empire; and the leader of the thieves in Norn Valley. Following this fight, Milanor the Silver Wolf listens to Yggdra's circumstances. After learning that she's the royal princess of a fallen kingdom, Milanor agrees to help her reconquer Fantasia in exchange for her castle when the war is over.

Their newly-formed alliance marks the beginning of Princess Yggdra's revolution against Gulcasa and the Bronquian Empire.

Yggdra Union: We'll Never Fight Alone is a tactical role-playing game for the Game Boy Advanced and PlayStation Portable. The game was developed by Sting Entertainment as the second episode of the Dept. Heaven series. Atlus USA localized and published both versions of the game in North America while 505 games published the GBA version in a limited number of European countries.

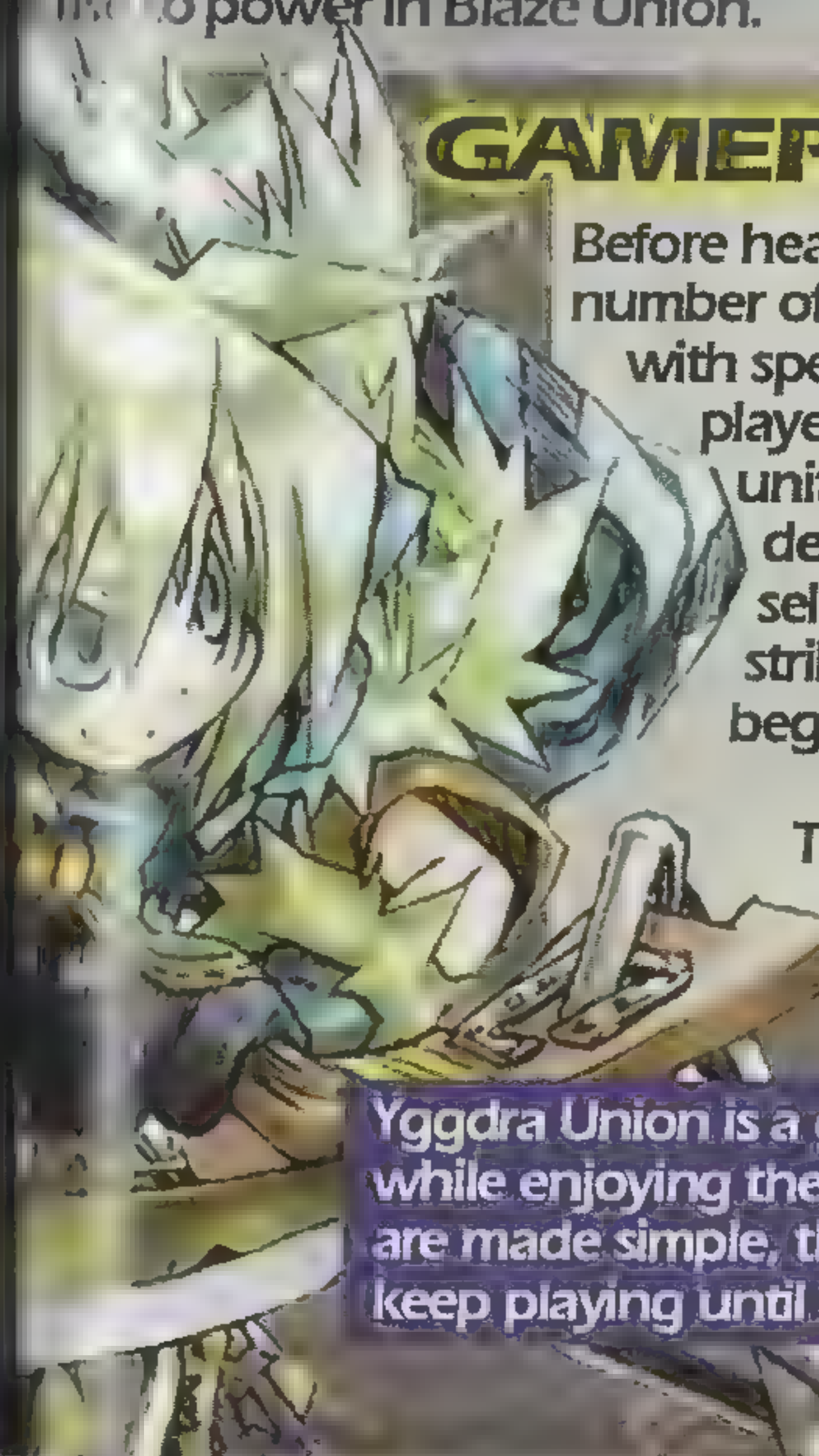
The game takes place before the events in Riviera: The Promised Land and after Gulcasa's rise to power in Blaze Union.

GAMEPLAY

Before heading to battle in Yggdra Union, the player is allowed to select a number of cards to use, characters to sortie and give them some equipment with special effects. The main battle gameplay is split into two parts: first, the player and the computer take turns in mobilizing miniature versions of their units in the field and attack the enemy target. Character movement is determined by the selected card's MOV. Second, once a target is selected, the screen will show the attacking team initiating a preemptive strike and the defending team will then retaliate. After that, the clash will begin.

The game follows a linear set of battles, but the story progression may change depending on the player's choices in some of the battles.

Yggdra Union is a game that focuses on forming powerful unions on the battlefield while enjoying the rhythmic motion of the battles. Although making tactical decisions are made simple, the entertainment factor Yggdra Union has is good enough reason to keep playing until the end.





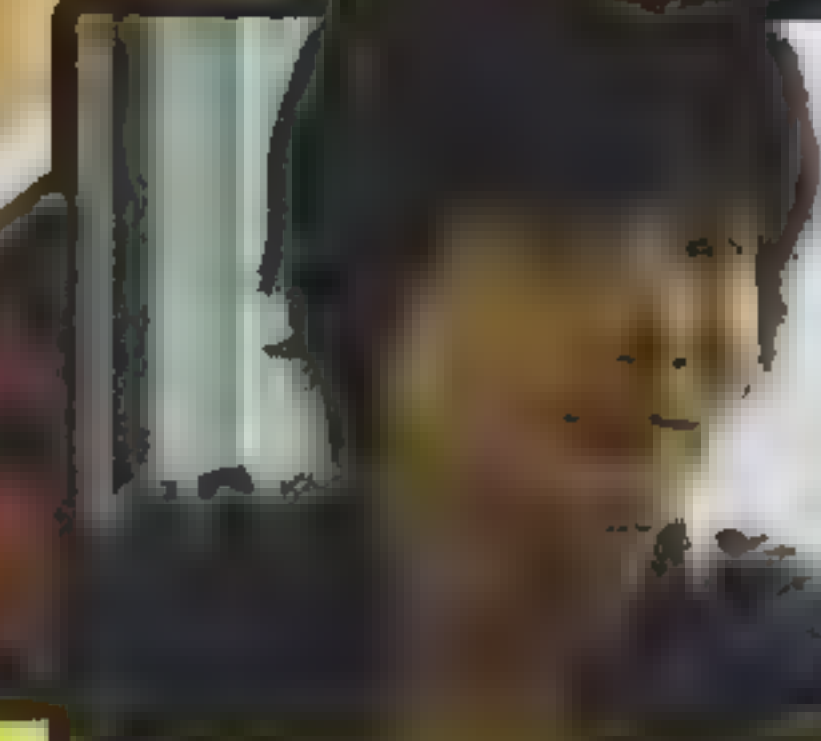
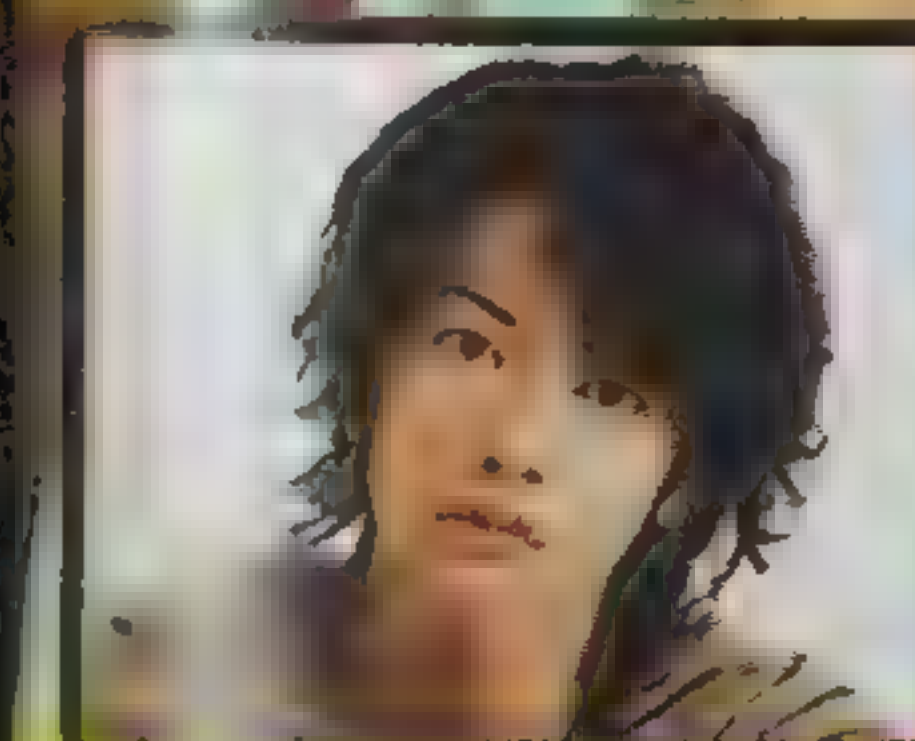
LIVE ACTION

For most of us, to be a manga artist is a dream. However, it's not something you can do on a whim, as it takes a lot of skill, hardwork, perseverance, and even luck.

If you think you're up to the challenge, then go for it now...but not before watching Bakuman.



BAKUMAN

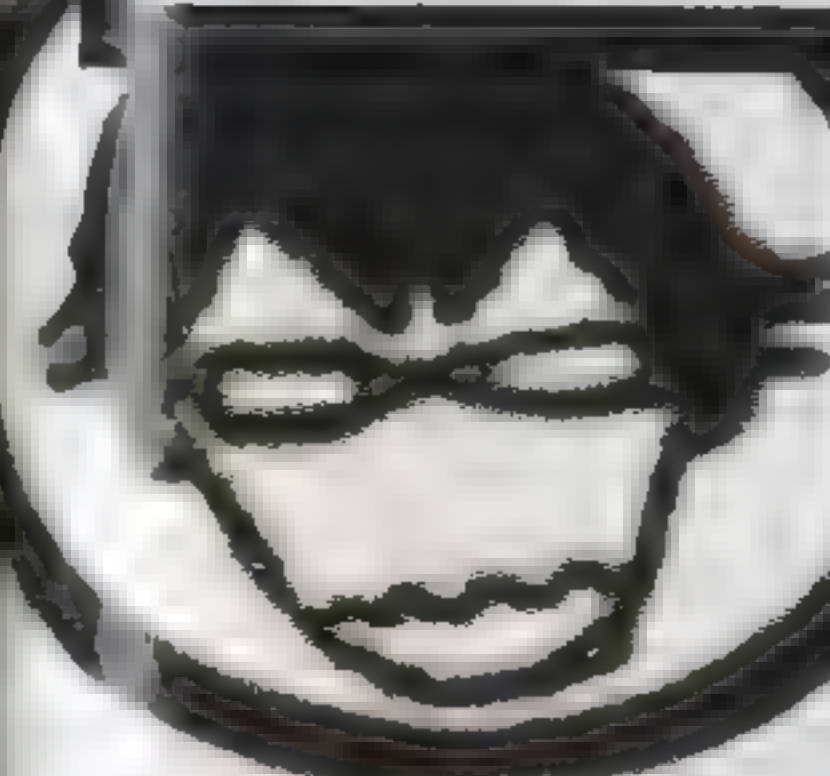


Based on the manga series of the same name written by Tsugumi Ohba and drawn by Takeshi Obata, the brains behind Death Note and Hikaru no Go, the story revolves around Moritaka Mashiro, a high school student who dreams of becoming a manga artist just like his uncle. However, he has no plans of pursuing it, as he thinks it's just one big gamble, until his classmate Akito Takagi notices his talent in drawing and asks him to team up with him in making manga.

Moved and inspired by his classmate, the two try their luck and reach for their dreams.



Although the live-action adaptation is slated to be released sometime next year, it will be worth the wait, as Moritaka Mashiro will be played by Takeru Satoh, famous for his lead roles in Rurouni Kenshin and Beck, and Akito Takagi by Ryunosuke Kamiki, who will be playing as Soujiro Seta in the upcoming Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno movie. Also, the film will be directed by Hitoshe One, who directed the live-action adaptations of Moteki and The Vortex of Love, and will feature official art by Takeshi Obata.



It's still a year from now, so there's still a lot of time to wait, but keep in mind that next year, we get to see our favorite manga-making duo hit the silver screen.

OTHER WORLDLY EXPERIENCE PHANTASY STAR ONLINE 2

By [illegible]

There are times when I look up to the night sky and wonder what lies beyond the stars. But one day, I stopped wondering for I have been to the far regions of our universe. Join us in this new frontier in Phantasy Star Online 2.

In Phantasy Star Online 2, you are a member of ARKS, an elite force tasked in the protection of different sectors in the universe. For now, you are assigned to Naberius, a beautiful planet infested with the evil D-Ark. Your task is to keep the infestation in check and get to the bottom of the mystery behind it.

The smooth and detailed graphics makes you really feel that you're in a futuristic interplanetary setting, be it in a starship filled with high-tech armor-wearing ARKS members or wild beasts in lush green sceneries.

The sound, from the humming of laser blades to the dubbing, which is in original Japanese, never seems out of context, reinforcing the ambience set up by the visuals and theme of the game.



In the game, there are four races. Each race has their own advantages and disadvantages, making them suitable for certain specific jobs.

- **Human** – the default “human” race. Humans have fairly balanced stats, making them fit to any job they choose to do.
- **Newman** – the “elf” race. Their affinity to the photon arts makes them suited as force.
- **Cowman** – a horned humanoid race. They make good braver because of their high attack and low HP.
- **CAST** – advanced mechanical lifeforms. They are fitted to be either hunters or rangers.



As an ARKS member, you will spend most of your time fighting, so you will have to choose between the four classes:

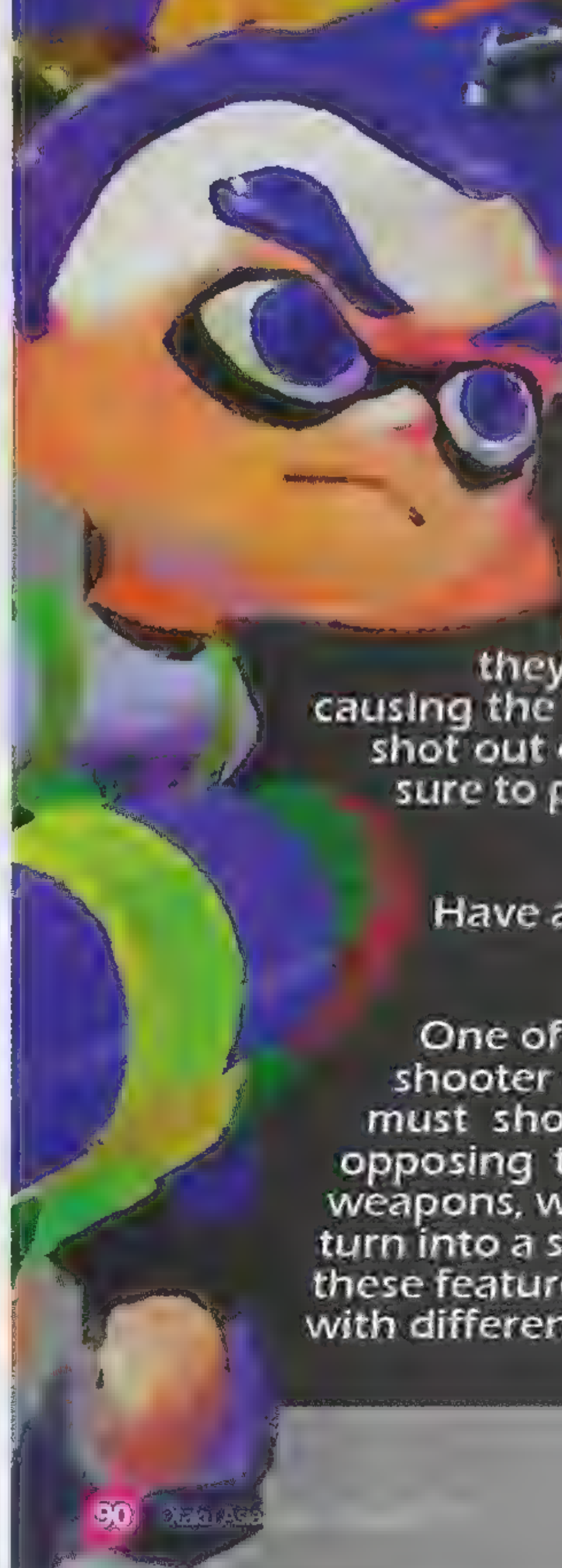
- **Hunter** – melee fighters with good physical damage and defense.
- **Ranger** – ranged weapon specialists that can deal damage from a safe distance.
- **Force** – through their use of photon arts, the game's equivalent of magic, they can deal high damage and support allies.
- **Braver** – a well-rounded class that employs both melee and ranged combat styles.

While the weapons a character can use vary from one class to another, the game allows you to choose up to three weapons which you can change on the fly, giving the players versatility and options during the heat of battle. Also, you will have a pet called a “mag”, which can learn abilities that will assist you in combat.

With its unique theme and setting, smooth graphics and sound, an exhilarating battle system, and fully customizable characters, Phantasy Star Online 2 is definitely an otherworldly experience.

Splatoon

By James



Whenever gamers encounter the term "shooter", I'm sure that what comes to their heads are usually those titles that involve dark and gritty battlefields, weapon design patterned to real-life guns, and hardcore competitive co-op gaming action. Of course they're fun, but sometimes the players get a little bit too serious, causing the main intent of playing, which is the enjoyment of the game, be shot out of the scene. Thankfully, Nintendo came up with a game that is sure to put some color back to shooters.

Have a blast with Splatoons.

One of the games featured in this year's E3, Splatoons is a third-person shooter game that puts players in interactive environments, where they must shoot their opponents or cover more area with ink before the opposing team does. The said objective is achieved through the use of weapons, which becomes upgraded as the game progresses. Players can also turn into a squid and swim in the ink for greater maneuverability. Because of these features, Splatoons offers a lot of possibilities for its players to come up with different creative strategies to achieve victory.



The graphics, which employs a smooth and colorful cel-shading scheme, is very much suggestive of the game's fun-loving and cartoon-like theme and feel despite it being a competition-oriented one. The games can include up to four-versus-four matches, and you can play with friends offline, as well as friends or strangers online.



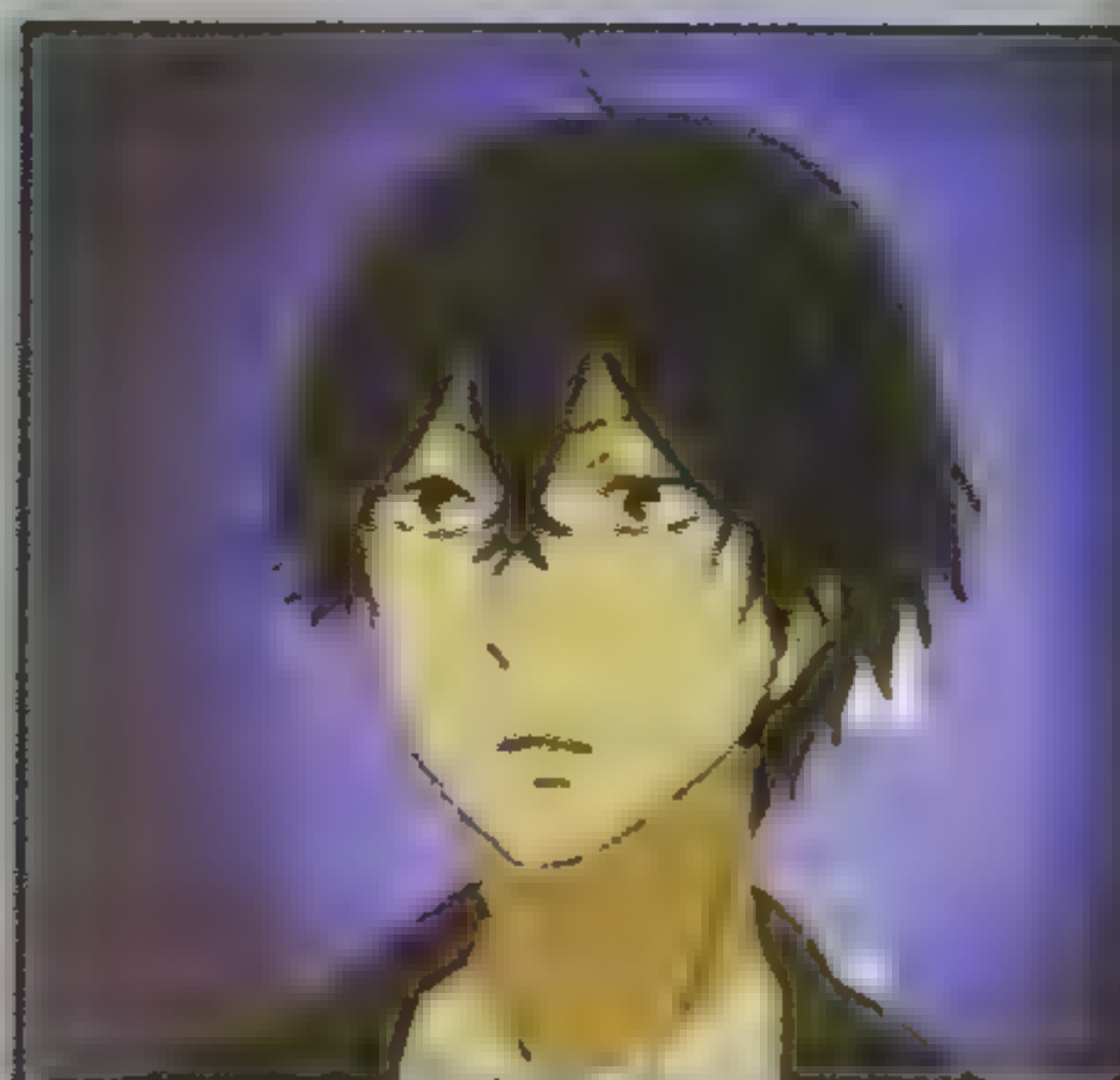
One of the most anticipated games for the Wii U, Splatoons is slated for release around the first half of 2015. To know more about this wacky shooter, check out <http://e3.nintendo.com/games/wiiu/splatoon/>.



Art in the Form of Antics Barakamon

Calligraphy is a form of art that uses lettering and handwriting as its main focus. The most esteemed Japanese calligraphers are deemed in the field as celebrities. Nowadays Calligraphy is also being taught in school and is now a mandatory subject in Japan. Nevertheless, those born with natural talent in the art always stood out of the rest and it is their choice whether they would pursue the beauty of literary art or not.

Handa Seishuu is a young calligrapher who is quite famous in his field. On a certain exhibit, Handa is unable to stand the criticism of an old curator so he suddenly punched the elderly on the face which results to him being exiled to a small island. Treating the punishment as some sort of rest and rehabilitation, and with not much of a choice; Handa sets off to his new countryside life.



Growing up in a city his whole life, Handa must learn to adapt to his new lifestyle while being pestered by nosy locals, unwanted visitors that appear out of nowhere and never use the front door, and an annoying kid that treats his new home as a secret base.

Barakamon is a comedic slice of life summer 2014 anime produced by Kinema Citrus. The series was originally adapted from Yoshino Satsuki's manga of the same title that is currently being serialized by GanGan Online.

Although it is not the first series that covers the world of calligraphy, Barakamon will surely sink into the hearts of viewers due to its uniqueness and warmth. Handa's new home and the individuals that he encounters, especially the annoying brat called Kotoishi Naru, will open his heart to new possibilities which also helps him improve himself in calligraphy.

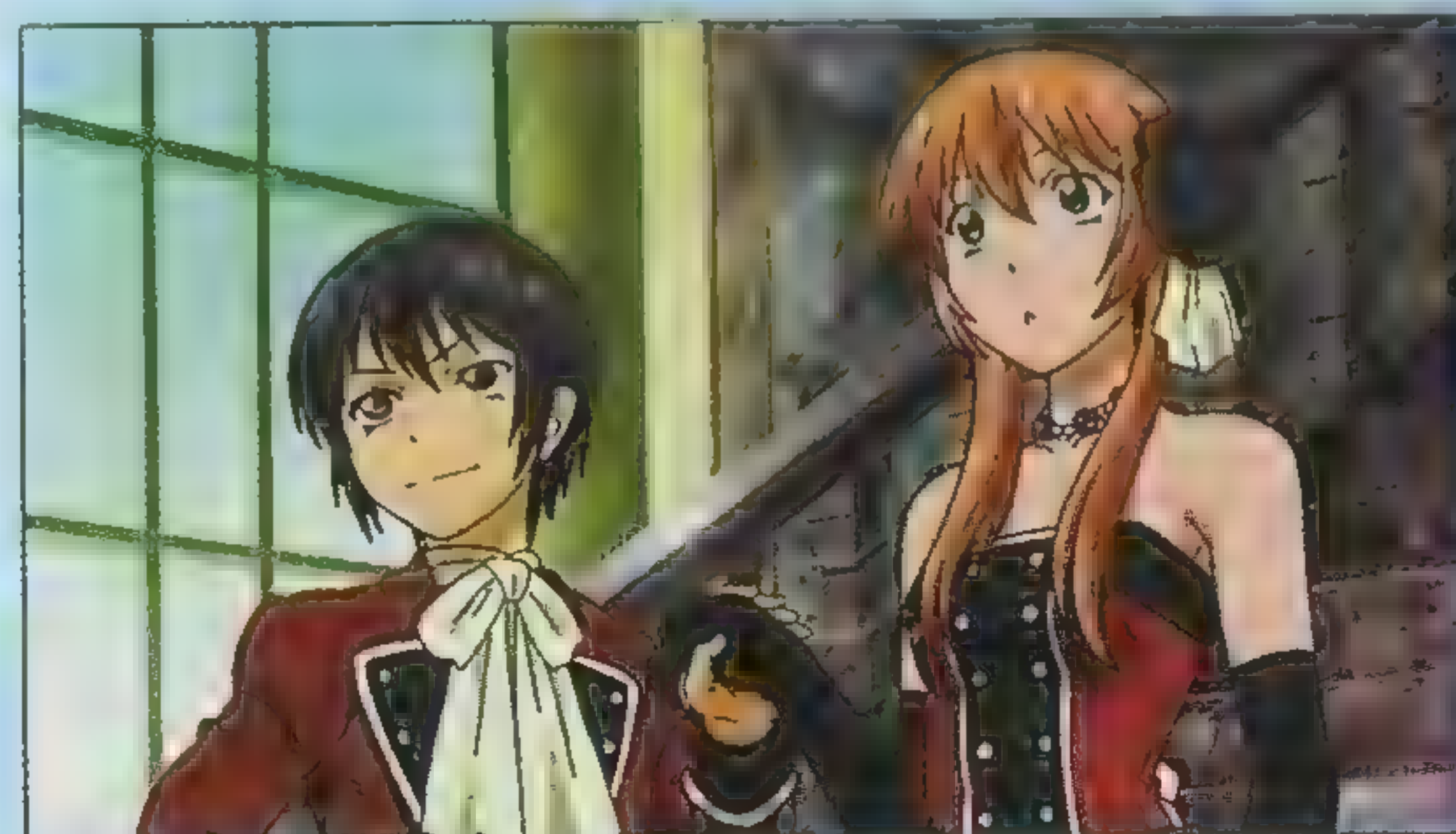
Will Handa's new home and lifestyle that is full of wacky antics and innocence be able to help Handa in his pursuit of a higher level in calligraphy?

Find out as he faces all the crazy hardships that come his way in Barakamon.

Rain Upon the Sun Soredemo Sekai wa Utsukushii

Nike Remercier, a spunky princess of a country called Rair Dukedom, and the heroine of the anime Soredemo Sekai wa Utsukushii, she will show that whatever bumps and this life could throw at you, the world can indeed still be beautiful.

After losing a game of rock-paper-scissors with her sisters, Nike is sent to the powerful Sun Kingdom to marry the Sun King, who seeks her magical powers. With the revelation that the Sun King is actually a kid named Livius, who is every bit cold and cruel, her task of becoming the "Sun Queen" quickly becomes even a lot tougher. With fate bringing the two closer, a story of a distrustful boy learning to appreciate the world begins to unfold.



Soredemo Sekai wa Utsukushii is a shoujo series adapted by Studio Pierrot from Dai Shiina's manga. It was initially published as a series of one-shots in Hana to Yume magazine, dated 2009 and 2011. Since 2012, it has been serialized in the magazine and is still ongoing, with 7 volumes already compiled. It began airing during April of 2014 to much fanfare.

Of course, Soredemo Sekai wa Utsukushii's main attraction is the budding relationship between our high-spirited princess and the young king of the Sun Kingdom. While viewers would expect lots of romantic drama, the show never fails to insert awkward, and sometimes over-the-top, comedic moments in order to lighten the mood. This usage of the heavenly combination of drama and comedy creates a shoujo anime with great balance. Promising to bring a unique romantic comedy with the heartwarming message of appreciating the world, this show is a definite recommendation.

What will become of the relationship between Nike and Livius? Watch the show to find out!



Kuroshitsuji: Book of Circus

"You're my Master and I'm your Butler" said the butler to his master. Together they return again in search for the missing children.

Ciel Phantomhive and his butler, Sebastian, are in a mission in search for the missing children. He receives a letter from the Queen of Great Britain, Queen Victoria about Noah's Ark Circus and their relation on the disappearances of children. She asks Ciel to save the children and return them to their family safely. They head over to the Noah's Ark Circus to see their performance.

During the show, the performer asks the audience to participate as she performs with her tiger, Betty. Sebastian volunteers. Something goes wrong and it causes a chaos in the circus.

Kuroshitsuji: Book of Circus is the third series in the Black Butler TV series. It was produced by A-1 Pictures. The original cast will return as well; Master Ciel Phantomhive will be voiced by Maaya Sakamoto and the cunning butler, Sebastian Michaelis will be voiced by Daisuke Ono. Unlike the previous seasons, the new series will be a remake of the original manga storyline. In addition, an OVA entitled Book of Murder will also be released.



Being one of the most popular arcs in the manga, Book of Circus is definitely the good choice. Fans look forward to the circus members (Joker and Beast!!) and the frivolous outfits and costumes. If the script follows the plot, you have to expect some action in the Phantomhive mansion, more jokes from the Undertaker and see how far Sebastian would go to gain information.

Here again is the master and the demon butler as they go rescue the children within the Noah's Ark Circus. You will definitely be hooked at the surrounding mysteries of the circus, surprise character appearances and jokes that they throw at each other.

Just as in any circus, *nothing is as it seems.*

Watch Ciel and Sebastian enter the circus as if their normal life wasn't crazy enough.

Knights of Sidonia

by Ann

Knights of Sidonia - Last Hope of Humanity by Ben D. & Ann In the far future and the hostile depths of space, how can mankind survive as they flee a destroyed solar system and an unknown alien race seemingly intent on mankind's destruction?

Nagate Tanikaze lived all his life in the underground parts of Sidonia, one of the ships that are the last refuges of humanity. After the death of his guardian, he's forced to go to the surface by hunger. At first, he's chased and captured, called a "rice thief." He's discriminated against for being a pure "smelly" human by a humanity that's evolved into photosynthesis. But he's adopted by the ship's captain who places him in the pilot training program. It's found that underground, he trained his whole life in a pilot simulation chair and has natural piloting skills. As the Gauna, the aliens who wish to destroy the humans, make their first appearance in a hundred years, he becomes part of the squad investigating about this. During their mission, he is one of the first to kill a Gauna, giving hope to everyone aboard the ship. After talking with the captain, he agrees to become a Knight of Sidonia, part of an order whose strength is needed once again to save humanity from an overpowering foe.

As the story develops, the Gauna evolve into even deadlier enemies and many conspiracies involving Sidonia and her history are revealed. Can humanity be saved by the last true human?

Knights of Sidonia is a 12-episode anime produced by Polygon Pictures. This anime is a notable work of Tsutomu Nihei because in it, he combines his normal style with big robot and ecchi. Nihei, an original Japanese artist with a background in architectural design, is known for epic large scale sci-fi manga such as BLAME! (Pronounced "blam"). It's good to note that there are common elements in his work such as Toha Heavy Industries and the bear. In fact, his universe is easier to understand if one is familiar with his other works but even if one is not, each work can be accepted as pure epic science fiction such as this anime. Independently, his works go into great detail on the sci-fi themes just as he does in architectural works. Although the plot seems very serious, it adds a little breather on the side with a little bit of ecchi. In addition, Angela performed the opening theme "Sidonia" and Eri Kitamura performed "Tenohira Show" as the ending theme.

More of the adventures await your exploration, so come and join us in Sidonia!

When the Hunters Becomes the Hunted Tokyo Ghoul

Beneath the surface of a beautiful façade lies an ugly truth, a shocking fact that the mere knowledge of its existence could turn your world upside-down in an instant. Upon stepping over the boundary and hence shifting over to that world, would you be able to retain your old persona, or would your let an urge that you've never experienced before dominate and transform you into an abomination?

College student Kaneki Ken and his childhood buddy Hide is discussing the recent news that has been plaguing Tokyo for some time now. The news entails strange murder scenes that involve voracious eaters known as *ghouls* who consume their victim's entrails. The two of them theorize that ghouls disguise themselves as humans and adapt within the society in order to live out their lives without looking suspicious. Little did Kaneki know that he is about to encounter one of them soon and that cruel twist of fate would plunge him into the world unbeknownst to most men.



Tokyo Kushi or Tokyo Ghoul is a psychological, suspense, horror anime from Studio Pierrot which is set to premiere in Japan's summer 2014 season.

The series is an original adaptation from Ishida Sui's serialized manga of the same title from Young Jump Magazine. The anime's opening theme "Unravel" is performed by TK while the ending theme "Seijatachi" is performed by People in the Box.

Humans are said to be at the top of the food chain, but what happens however if there exists a certain entity that could easily disrupt that balance and stand atop of humans? Tokyo Ghoul depicts how those entities called 'ghouls' live out their lives and find a way to survive in the modern world infested by their food source.

If you are curious to know what happens to Kaneki after he survives the tragic encounter with a ghoul, watch Tokyo Ghoul.

Crow Head and White Girl Tokyo ESP

If one day you wake up with powers, there is only one thing to do: choose to be a hero or a villain.

Urashiba Rinka, a half-Japanese, has led a poor life with only her father to lean upon. But her ordinary life changes one fateful day. While riding her bicycle home, Rinka is enthralled by a "flying penguin." She chases it with the hopes to make some cash but she meets another person, Azuma Kyoutarou, who is also chasing the penguin. The chase leads them to the New Tokyo Tower where they noticed some glowing fish swimming in the air. Mesmerized by this scenario, Rinka does not immediately notice a fish that is on its way to her until it suddenly swims through her body, rendering her unconscious.

The next day, Rinka wakes up to a whole new world of fantasy and unexplained events.



Tokyo ESP, an anime adaptation of the manga, aired July 2014. The series is the second work of Hajime Segawa following the success of his first series, Ga-Rei and Ga-Rei: Yuina no Shou. While the first one focused on the supernatural, this new hit is looking to be a more modern take on fantasy. With an impressive resume under their belt, including *Infinite Stratos* and *Another*, Lantis is set to take charge in producing this promising new anime. The anime's opening theme "Tokyo Zero Hearts" is performed by Faylan while the ending theme will be delivered by Yousei Teikoku.

Despite several anime in the same genre, what makes Tokyo ESP stand out is how it can be called a "science fantasy" because of how heavily modernized the setting is. This further helps immerse viewers into this action-packed tale of futuristic heroes. It also helps that these characters all go through their ups and downs in the story, creating a great cast which viewers can relate to and root for.

Fast-paced action, a gripping word, a cool cast of characters, what's not to like? Come join Rinka and Azuma in their adventures by tuning in to Tokyo ESP!



REQUESTS

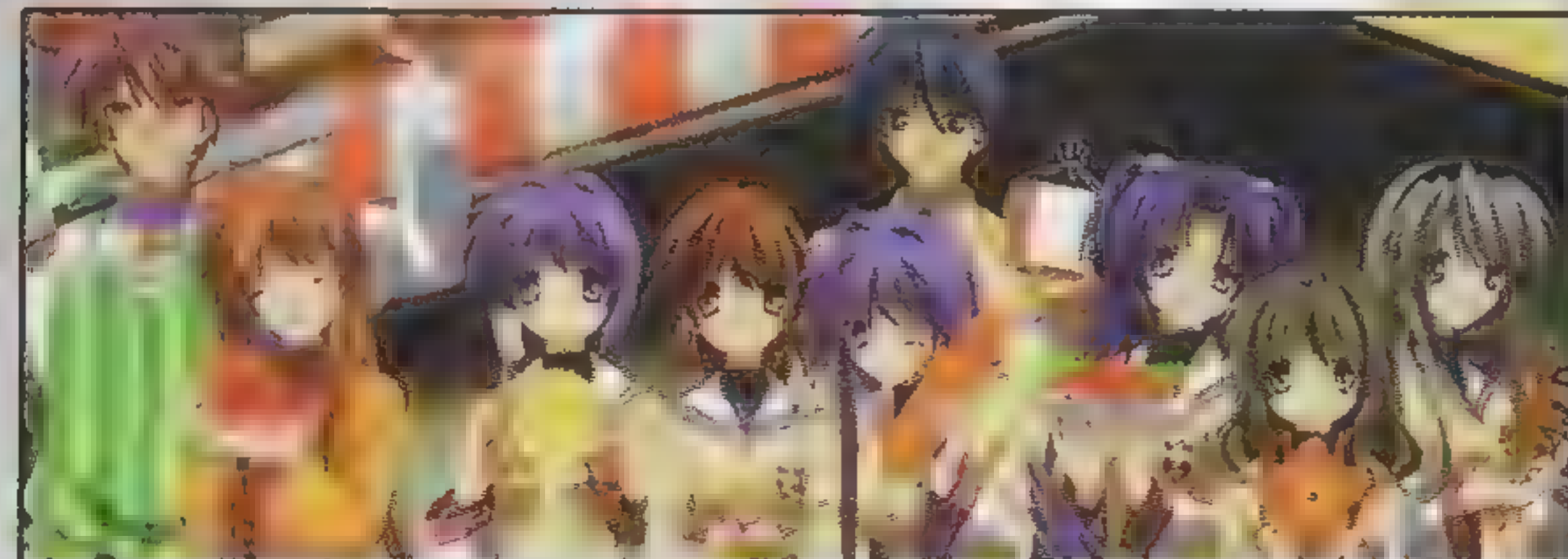
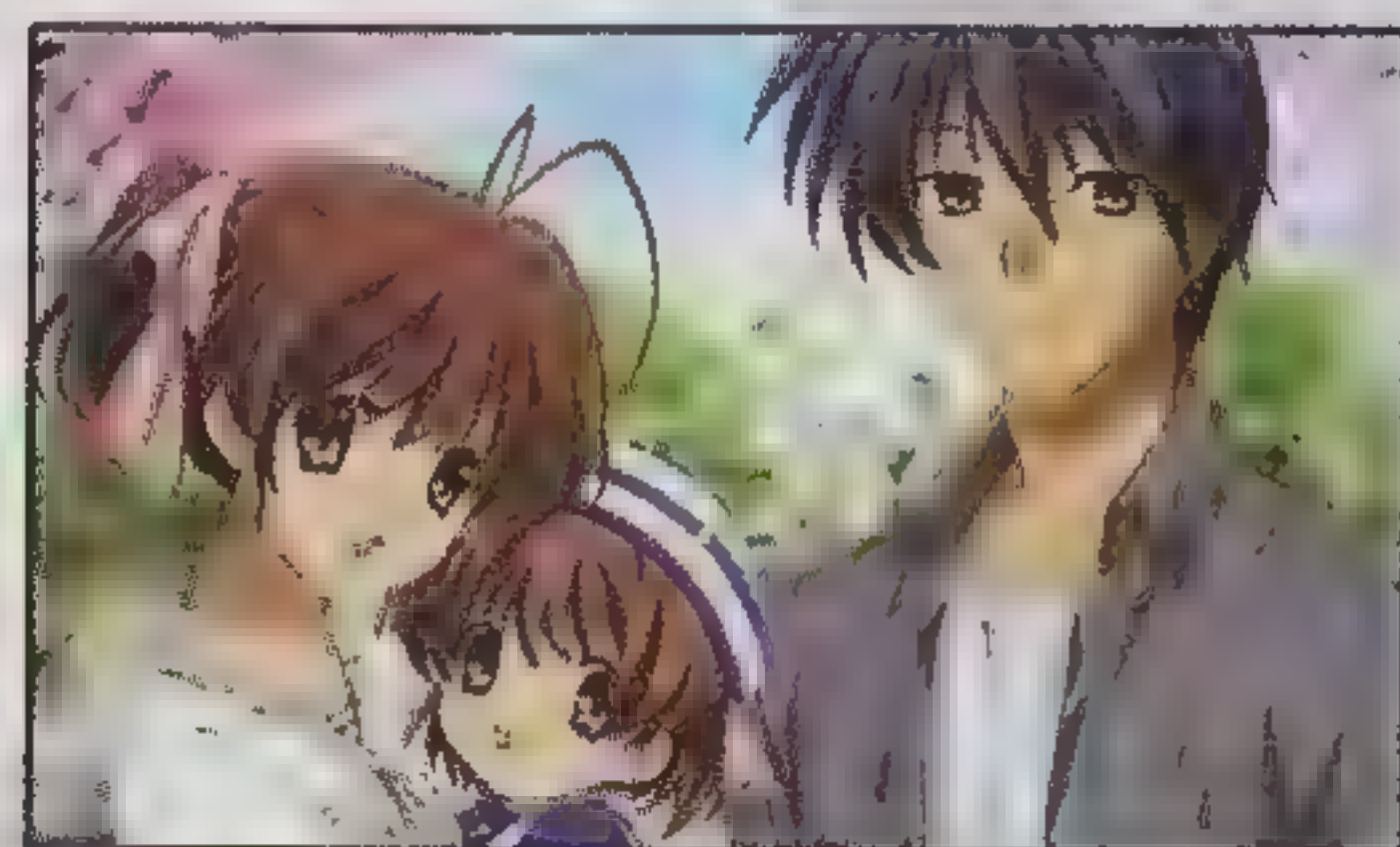
written by Ren

CLANNAD

Life is like a mixture of different colors with each representing the kind of life each person has. To others, life is really beautiful but there are still others that think that it is not. With Tomoya Okazaki's resentful outlook in his life, will his view of life ever change?

Arriving late to school, skipping classes and staying out all night; because of these, Tomoya Okazaki has been labeled a delinquent. Unknown to everyone, he has bad memories that led him to become resentful of his life. When he was younger, his mother died in a car accident, resulting to his dad's to resort to gambling and alcohol. Since then, Tomoya and his dad would always argue. One of their arguments led to Tomoya's shoulder injury and further distanced their relationship.

One day, while Tomoya's on the way to school, he meets a girl named Nagisa Furukawa. Nagisa is a year older but had to repeat due to her illness and is often alone as her friends moved on already. They start to hang out with each other and slowly, Tomoya's view of his life changes as well.



Clannad is originally a visual novel developed by Key for the Windows PC and later on ported to different consoles such as Playstation and Xbox 360. It was ranked in Japan as the best-selling PC game in the time of its release. Clannad then received many media adaptations, such as mangas, OVA and the anime series released back in 2007.

See how Tomoya's life will take a different turn by checking out Clannad!



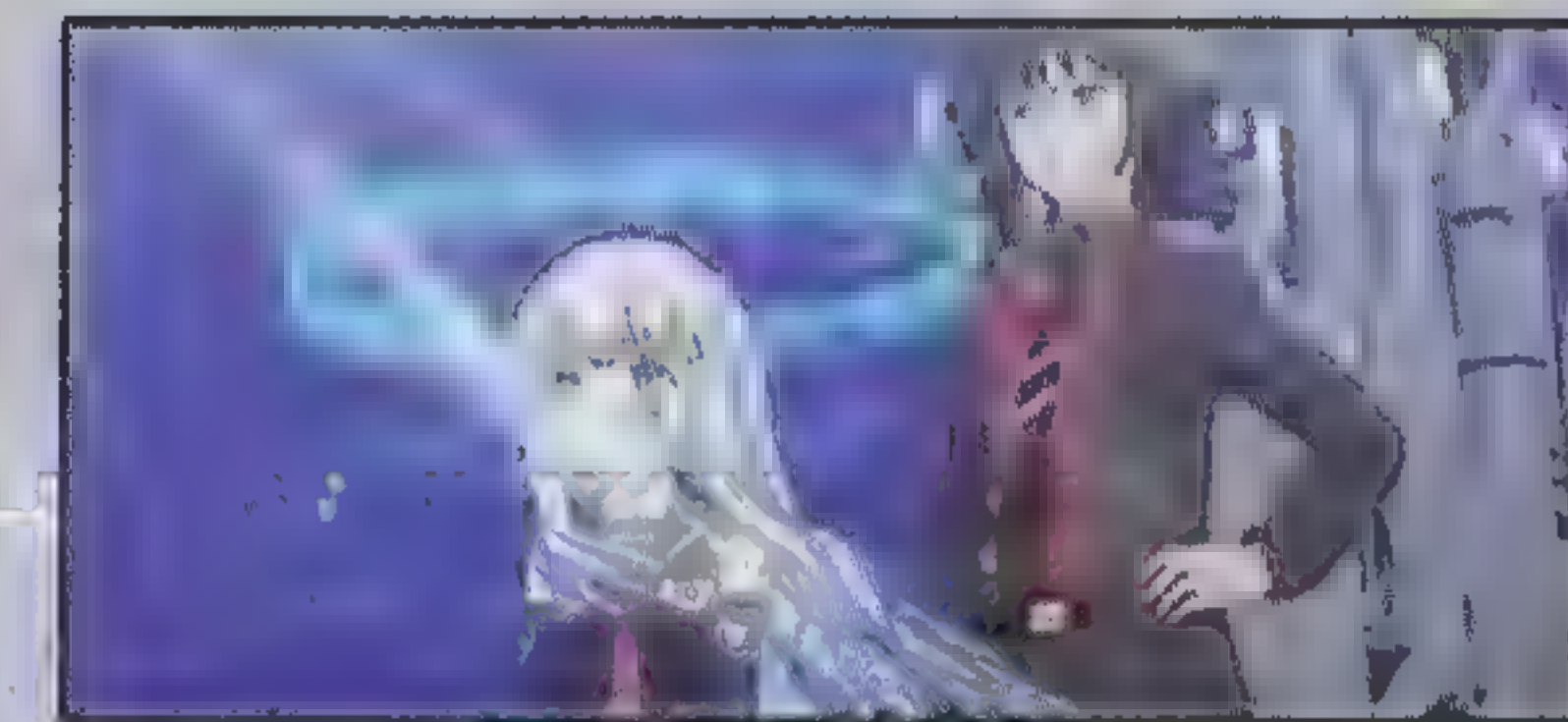
written by Ren

There are times when a great obstacle in life comes by and leads to a hopeless situation. With the feeling of defeat and hopelessness, there comes an unexpected help that will fix the problem. Gunzo Chihaya and the rest of mankind got the least possible help that they can get!

ARPEGGIO OF THE BLUE STEEL: ARS NOVA

In the 21st century, the global warming had caused the sea levels to rise, leading to the decrease of Earth landmass. At 2039, fleets of powerful warships called the Fleet of the Fog mysteriously emerge, attacking every human ship from the different corners of the ocean. The Fleet imposes a worldwide naval and aerial blockade that prevents the humanity to travel to the ocean and to different nations. They block trade routes, cause the destruction of political economy and the fall of humans. In addition to this, they also make Mental Models, which are humanoid avatars that contain a ship's Union core.

Years later, Fleet cadet Gunzo Chihaya encounters one of the Fleet's submarine. Iona, the humanoid life form who pilots this offers her help to humankind. He then becomes the captain of Blue Steel and is hired by the Japanese government to deliver a prototype of a weapon that can fight against the Fog to the United States to mass produce the weapon. The Blue Steel faces great obstacles and at the same time gains allies in their journey towards their goal.



Arpeggio of Blue Steel: Ars Nova is a 12 episode anime series that aired from October to December 2013. The anime was adapted from a manga that is produced by Ark Performance and will have two films that will come out on 2015.

If you want to know more about the journey of Blue Steel, be sure to check out Arpeggio of Blue Steel!



BITZ

#doitfortheVine

Vine

I'm sure you've heard the word "vine" around different social media sites. No, they're not plants that creep on walls and trees. These are very short but very funny videos.

Vines, which are looping six-second videos, are created using the mobile app called Vine, which is available for both iOS and Android. Founded by Kelsey Gilstrap and Tracy Florey in June 2012, the app was later bought by social media giant Twitter for about a whopping thirty million dollars.

Within a few months, Vine became the most used video-sharing app on the market. On April 2013, it became the most downloaded free app in the iOS app store. Also, on May of this year, Vine has launched a web version where users can browse vines.

Because of the app's connection to social media, many of its users have become "Internet famous" and have been dubbed as vine stars such as Jerome Jarre, a 23-year old French guy whose vines involve pranks; Andrew Bachelor, who is more popularly known as KingBach, and has 6.7 million followers on Vine; and Brittany Furlan, the most famous female vine star, with 5.5 million viewers. You should try searching for their vine compilations on Youtube, or check out their profiles on the Vine site itself. They're quite hilarious.

However, why watch someone else's work if you can make your own? Go on, download that app, and have your six seconds of fun that can last a long time. Who knows? Maybe you'll be the next vine star, and I'll be writing about you.



some vine stars: Rudy Mancuso, Alx James, Brittany Furlan, Josh Peck, Christian DelGrosso, Nash Grier



#JoinUs

He...rather, she has conquered the stage I'm talking about no other than Conchita Wurst, champion of this year's Eurovision. Singers from the 37 participating countries joined the annual song competition held in Copenhagen, Denmark this May 6 to 10.

Conchita's powerful performance of "Rise Like A Phoenix" is a testament to how she lifted up not only her nation, Austria's flag but also her identity from being Tom Neuworth. Being known as "the bearded lady," she received both support and criticism; yet she believes that her victory marks a generation in which Europe recognizes tolerance as well as loving oneself. It's definitely envisioning a community that welcomes diversity.

Another hallmark of this year's Eurovision is the Netherlands' duo The Common Linnets taking the second place with their song "Calm After The Storm." This inspired many critics that the show is not all about songs that make the stage tremble with strong voices.

With the grand preparations given to the week-long competition, it can be compared to the international attention given to the Olympics. Following Conchita's win is for Austria to host next year's Eurovision as part of the tradition of the winning country hosting the following year's competition. Weeks after Eurovision 2014, it had already been announced that Austrian public broadcaster ORF (Österreichischer Rundfunk) will be the partner of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

Eurovision Song Contest is a project by the EBU that began in 1956 with the goal of uniting the European nations by voting for the most popular song that participates. Some of the most popular singers who launched their international career through Eurovision are ABBA and Celine Dion.



Renewing the Vision

written by Ann





Regarded as one of the most successful and critically acclaimed anime television series of the 1990s, it is no doubt that Neon Genesis Evangelion has become a cultural icon.

The story were set in a futuristic Tokyo fifteen years after a global calamity known as Second Impact, the story centers around Shinji, a teenage boy recruited by an organization called NERV to pilot Evangelion, a giant bio-machine, to battle monstrous beings known as Angels.

Neon Genesis Evangelion, commonly referred to as NGE, Evangelion or Eva, is an apocalyptic anime in the mecha genre. It first aired from October 1995 to March 1996. The series, which was written and directed by Hideaki Anno, was created by anime studio Gainax.

Shiro Sagisu composed most of the series' original music. The series' theme song "A Cruel Angel's Thesis" which was performed by Yoko Takahashi topped the Oricon charts upon its release. The theme song continues to receive recognition. A version of "Fly Me to the Moon" arranged and sung by Claire Littley was the end theme of the series.

Following the fans' dissatisfaction with the series finale, Gainax released Neon Genesis Evangelion: Death and Rebirth—the franchise's first film—on March 1997 along with a follow-up to The End of Evangelion.

The End of Evangelion, which premiered on July 1997, is a complete retelling of the final two episodes of the television series, providing more action-based resolution to the series' plot lines. The film won numerous awards, grossing 1.45 billion yen within six months of release. CUT Magazine ranked it the third greatest anime film of all time in 2009.

Gainax confirmed a new animated film series on September 2006 called Rebuild of Evangelion. It consists of four movies that offer a different retelling of the TV series with new characters and a different conclusion to the story. The first film, called Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone was released on September 2007, while the second and third films, Evangelion: 2.0 You Can (Not) Advance and Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo, were released on June 2009 and November 2012, respectively. The final film, tentatively titled Evangelion: Final is anticipated for release in 2015.

Aside from spawning a number of films, several video games based on the series have been developed ranging from RPG and adventure games to mah-jong and card games, as well as various art books and visual novels.

With all that in account, Evangelion truly has a legacy of its own. What also made the series very impressive was the fact that it ran for only 26 episodes and was able to keep viewers hooked and wanting to see more of it, which proves how much impact it had on the viewers.

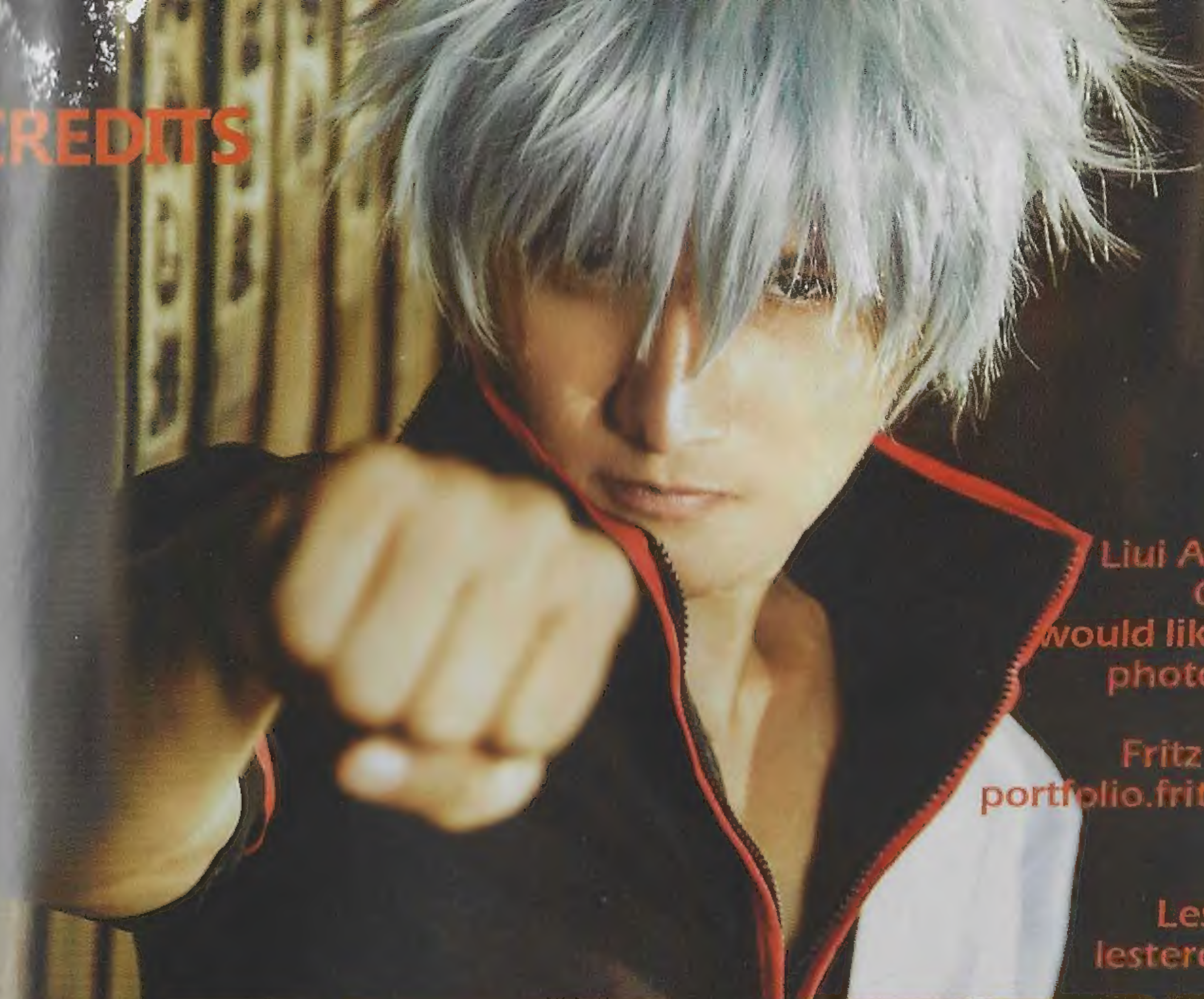
Of course, it goes without saying that Evangelion is one of those anime series one should watch before the world ends. It's never too late, though. So, start getting hooked with one of history's best anime series.



by Philip



CREDITS



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#THROWBACK

by Pam



ULTRA MANIAC: Magic of Friendship

A magical person falling to Earth is not a new concept among most fantasy anime but Ultra Maniac goes to show that this heroine is not all about selfish adventures in a brand new world.

Ayu Tateishi, president of the Female Tennis Club, keeps herself looking cool in school but this is just a show-off to her crush Kaji Tetsushi. Knowing her little secret is Nina Sakura, a transfer student and a witch-in training from the Magic Kingdom. In exchange for Ayu's help in finding her mini PC, Nina tells her big secret mission of finding the five "Holy Stones" that will enable her to marry the Prince of their kingdom. However, Nina finds herself torn when one of her greatest rivals in her mission turns out to be her childhood friend, Maya Orihara.

Will one of these friendships end or will she be able to keep them both?

Wataru Yoshizumi's Ultra Maniac is a shoujo, school life, fantasy, comedy, and romance anime that has 26 episodes which aired from May to November 2003. It was produced by Ashi Productions. It features the voices of Yui Horie (Honda Tohru of Fruits Basket and Anna Kushina of K) as Ayu, Akemi Kanda (Meyer Czeslaw of Baccano! and Asuna Kagurazaka of Mahou Sensei Negima) as Nina, Kamiya Hiroshi (Yuzuru Otonashi of Angel Beats! and Koyomi Araragi of Bakemonogatari) as Kaji, and Chiba Saeko (Azmaria Hendric of Chrono Crusade and Momo Adachi of Peach Girl) as Maya.

Although its manga version focuses on Nina coming to Earth to practice her spells on humans to become a better witch, the anime provides a more definite goal for Nina. It is through this mission that she will uncover what trust really means for her friends. Character development will also revolve around the main characters as they learn that trust is a greater foundation for any kind of relationship.



Tokyo Bubble Tea is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambiance encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!



Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambiance and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.



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